

Biogenic Silica Subsampling

You will need:

Freeze-dried sediment

As many 50mL centrifuge tubes as you have samples

Skinny sharpie

Metal spatula

Centrifuge tube 'stand' made out of aluminum foil

The precise balance

A few large and a bunch of small Kimwipes

Wear gloves!

1. With the sharpie, label a centrifuge tube for each sample that you will be weighing and sending out for analysis. (Core name, sample depth, sample # if applicable)
2. Place a large kimwipe on the table next to the balance. This will help keep things clean, since freeze-dried sediment has a tendency to build up static electricity and fly everywhere. Shake this off between each sample weighing.
3. Place the first centrifuge tube, without the top, in the aluminum foil 'stand'.
4. Place the tube and stand on the balance.
5. Tare the balance.
6. Remove the tube and stand from the balance and place them on the kimwipe.
7. Using the metal spatula, place ~50-75mg of freeze-dried sediment into the tube. **BE SURE THAT THE LABEL ON THE SEDIMENT BAGGIE OR BOTTLE MATCHES THE LABEL ON THE CENTRIFUGE TUBE!**
8. Weigh the tube, stand and sediment.
9. Record the sediment weight, both on a spreadsheet and in sharpie on the tube itself.
10. Put the sediment baggie or bottle away. Cap the tube.
11. Clean the metal spatula with DI H₂O and a kimwipe.
12. Repeat steps 3-11 for all of your samples.