

## Re-usable Personal Protective Equipment (PPA's)

The use of re-usable healthcare textile personal protective equipment makes sense in today's world in which sustainability of product and process is the way forward.

<https://www.trsa.org/news/vp-pence-recognizes-reusable-medical-garments-amid-covid-19-crisis/>

This is acknowledged by United States administrators in the article linked above. Re-usable PPA's are very likely to see significant growth in years to come.

***To this end, it may be time to tune up the laundry!***

ASNZS 4146:2000, Laundry Practice gives us techniques to measure laundry efficiency.

AWTA Product Testing are NATA accredited to test according to this standard and provide you vital information as to your laundry's health. This is done using standard test fabrics in the form of EMPA swatches.

### **How does it work?**

AWTA Product Testing supplies EMPA 105 and EMPA 224 swatches and will send them out to you. You process the swatch, return it to us and we do the rest, reporting our findings in a formal NATA report.

#### ***EMPA 105 swatch***

This swatch has standard soiled test strips and measures the effectiveness of your process in soil removal. The swatch has pre-soiled panels of pre-measured known colour co-ordinates. After you launder the swatch and return it to us we shall report on the effectiveness of your process to remove soils such as carbon black, blood, red wine and will also measure the degree of whiteness of the swatch.

Further reporting on intrinsic yellowing and greying gives valuable information on your rinsing process.



#### ***EMPA 224 swatch***

This swatch helps us to understand the chemical and mechanical damage that may happen in the laundry. The swatch has known tensile strength and cotton fluidity values. Return the swatch to us after laundering and we can tell you the amount of strength loss and whether that strength loss is due to chemical or mechanically caused damage.

### **How to contact us:**

*Please send samples with a completed test request form to the following address:*

**AWTA Product Testing  
Level 1, 191 Racecourse Rd,  
Flemington VIC 3031, Australia**

Contact AWTA Product Testing on:  Phone: (03) 9371 2400  Email: [producttesting@awta.com.au](mailto:producttesting@awta.com.au)