



The TraceX[®] Explosives Kit detects all major HMEs with just one swab.

Home Made Explosive (HME) Family	Representative Chemicals
Nitroaromatics	TNT, DNT, Tetryl
Nitramines & Nitrate Esters	RDX, HMX, PETN, EGDN, NG, R-Salt, Semtex
Inorganic Nitrates	urea nitrate, ammonium nitrate, black powder
Chlorates & Bromates	potassium chlorate, potassium bromate
Peroxides	TATP, HMTD
Acids	nitric acid, sulfuric acid
Bases	potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide

Competitive Comparison

	TraceX [®] Explosives Kit	Wipes	Pens
# of explosive families detected in one test cycle	9	1-4 ¹	1-3 ¹
Trace detection	Yes	Yes	Yes or No ¹
Bulk detection	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time for results	≤ 3 minutes total	2-12 minutes ²	2-12 minutes ²
Ease of use	Single swab and crush	Multiple swab and crush cycles, until a positive indication occurs	Multiple swab and crush cycles, until a positive indication occurs
Interpretation of results	Results clearly indicated	User interprets results based on color formed after serial analyses	User interprets patterns from multiple pens
User safety	All chemicals contained inside plastic case	Possible user exposure to chemicals	Possible user exposure to chemicals
Potential for sample contamination	Low ³	High ³	Medium ³
Ruggedness	Each kit encased in protective plastic case	Fragile ampoules are minimally protected	Fragile ampoules have limited protection provided by pen casing
Heat source required	No	Yes or No ¹	No

¹ Depends on specific product.

² Each test can take ~2 minutes; total time depends on number of tests run in series.

³ For TraceX Explosives kit, sampling site is protected by cover, and user swabs with handle.

For Wipes, user touches sampling site when swabbing. In some kits, reuse of dropper may introduce contamination.

For Pens, user must avoid touching tip of pen (which is sampling site).

Technical Specifications

Operating Temperature Range	2°C to 50°C (35°F to 122°F)
Operating Humidity Range	10% to 95% RH
Sensitivity	Trace Level (can also detect bulk levels)
Time for Color Change	Less than 3 minutes
Kit Size	131 mm x 92 mm x 17 mm (5-1/4" X 3-3/4" X 3/4")
Shelf Life	24 months ¹

¹ Store at room temperature. Short term excursions up to 50°C are acceptable.



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