

## Plate Count Agar (Standard Methods Agar)

M091

### Intended use

Recommended for the determination of plate counts of microorganisms in food, water, waste water and also from clinical samples.

### Composition\*\*

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Tryptone	5.000
Yeast extract	2.500
Dextrose (Glucose)	1.000
Agar	15.000
Final pH ( at 25°C)	7.0±0.2

\*\*Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

### Directions

Suspend 23.5 grams in 1000 ml distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

### Principle And Interpretation

Plate Count Agar is formulated as described by Buchbinder et al (1) which is recommended by APHA (2,3,4) and FDA (5). Tryptone provides nitrogenous and carbonaceous compounds, long chain amino acids, and other essential nutrients. Yeast extract supplies Vitamin B complex. APHA recommends the use of pour plate technique. The samples are diluted and appropriate dilutions are added in Petri plates. Sterile molten agar is added to these plates and plates are rotated gently to ensure uniform mixing of the sample with agar. The poured plate count method is preferred to the surface inoculation method, since it gives higher results. Plate Count Agar is also suitable for enumerating bacterial count of sterile rooms.

### Type of specimen

Clinical samples - Blood; Food and dairy samples; Water samples

### Specimen Collection and Handling

For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (6.7).

For food and dairy samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection and processing as per guidelines (2,3).

For water samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection, processing as per guidelines and local standards(4).

After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

### Warning and Precautions :

In Vitro diagnostic Use only. Read the label before opening the container. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/ face protection. Follow good microbiological lab practices while handling specimens and culture. Standard precautions as per established guidelines should be followed while handling clinical specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets

### Limitations :

This medium is general purpose medium and may not support the growth of fastidious organisms.

### Performance and Evaluation

Performance of the medium is expected when used as per the direction on the label within the expiry period when stored at recommended temperature.

### Quality Control

#### Appearance

Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

#### Gelling

Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

#### Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Light yellow coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

**Reaction**

Reaction of 2.35% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.0±0.2

**pH**

6.80-7.20

**Cultural Response**

Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35 - 37°C for 18 - 48 hours.

**Cultural Response**

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery
<b>Cultural Response</b>			
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> ATCC 6633 50-100 (00003*)		luxuriant	>=70%
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> ATCC 50-100 29212 (00087*)		luxuriant	>=70%
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25922 (00013*)	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
<i>Lactobacillus casei</i> ATCC 9595	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 25923 (00034*)	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> ATCC 19615	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%

Key : \*Corresponding WDCM numbers.

**Storage and Shelf Life**

Store between 130°C in a tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 22-8°C. Use before expiry date on the label. On opening, product should be properly stored dry, after tightly capping the bottle in order to prevent lump formation due to the hygroscopic nature of the product. Improper storage of the product may lead to lump formation. Store in dry ventilated area protected from extremes of temperature and sources of ignition. Seal the container tightly after use. Use before expiry date on the label.

Product performance is best if used within stated expiry period.

**Disposal**

User must ensure safe disposal by autoclaving and/or incineration of used or unusable preparations of this product. Follow established laboratory procedures in disposing of infectious materials and material that comes into contact with clinical sample must be decontaminated and disposed of in accordance with current laboratory techniques (6,7).

**Reference**

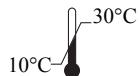
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7. Jorgensen, J.H., Pfaffer, M.A., Carroll, K.C., Funke, G., Landry, M.L., Richter, S.S. and Warnock, D.W. (2015) *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*, 11th Edition. Vol. 1.



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