

Handling and Storage of Prepared Plate Media

Providing you with the highest quality media products is our goal. For optimal media performance, guidelines related to media handling and storage are listed below.



Expedite to laboratory

Ensure adherence to recommendations for storage and handling from the time media is received at your facility until it is used for patient testing.¹ CLSI. 2004. Quality Control for Commercially Prepared Microbiological Culture Media. 3rd ed. Approved Standard, M22-A3. CLSI, Wayne, PA.

Refrigerate upon arrival

Store media in the original packaging, with the media-filled side of the plate at the top, at 2-8°C up to the date of expiration. Storage temperature should be monitored daily. To avoid freezing, do not store media adjacent to the freezer compartment of the refrigerator.² CLSI. 2004. Quality Control for Commercially Prepared Microbiological Culture Media. 3rd ed. Approved Standard, M22-A3. CLSI, Wayne, PA. Manufacturer's recommendation.

Store in the dark

Media should be stored in its original packaging; especially formulations containing dyes, indicators, and blood. Toxicity attributable to oxygen radicals and hydrogen peroxide resulting from prolonged light exposure may have a deleterious effect on performance and appearance.³ Bridson, E.Y. 2006. The Oxoid Manual. 9th ed. Oxoid Ltd. Basingstoke, U.K. Murray, P.R., E.J. Baron, J.H. Jorgensen, M.A. Pfaller, and R.H. Tenover. 2003. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th ed. ASM, Washington, D.C. Manufacturer's recommendation.

Avoid direct air flow

Minimize dehydration by storing and incubating media away from direct air flow, including fans. Additionally, media should not be stored in biological safety cabinets.⁴ Manufacturer's recommendation.

Incubate with humidity

Maximum growth and recovery of microorganisms is achieved when the humidity is 70% or higher. Use a humidified incubator or alternatively a basin of water placed in the incubator (change water frequently or add an antifungal agent to avoid contamination).⁵ Koneman, E.W., S.D. Allen, W.M. Janda, P.C. Schreckenberger, W.C. Winn, Jr. 1997. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology. 5th ed. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA. Isenberg, Henry D. 2004. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook 2nd ed. ASM, Washington, D.C.

Utilize plate bags

Maintain media integrity by storing media for daily use at room temperature enclosed in their original bags to reduce moisture loss. At the end of the day, return the unused plates to the refrigerator. Stability may be adversely affected by a recurrent shift between room temperature and refrigeration.⁶ Koneman, E.W., S.D. Allen, W.M. Janda, P.C. Schreckenberger, W.C. Winn, Jr. 1997. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology. 5th ed. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA.

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