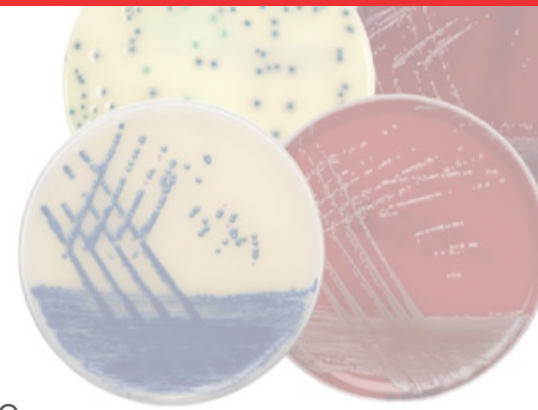


# Handling and Storage of Prepared Plate Media



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 testing.<sup>1</sup>

## Refrigerate upon arrival

Store media in the original packaging, with the media-filled side of the plate at the top, at stated temperature on the label 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.<sup>2</sup>

## Store in the dark

Media should be stored in its original packaging as specified on the label; 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.<sup>3</sup>

## References

1. LAB31 Edition 3 March 2019 - Use of Culture Media Procured Ready-To-Use or Partially Completed, Including Diagnostic Kits, In Microbiological Testing. ISO15189 Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence
2. CLSI. 2004. Quality Control for Commercially Prepared Microbiological Culture Media. 3rd ed. Approved Standard, M22-A3. CLSI, Wayne, PA. Manufacturer's recommendation.
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.
4. Manufacturer's recommendation.
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.

## 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.<sup>4</sup>

## Utilize plate bags

Maintain media integrity by storing media for daily use at room temperature enclosed away from light 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.<sup>5</sup>

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