

## **GROWING BACTERIA IN PREPARED MEDIA PLATES**

**These petri plates are pre-poured with a medium  
which is excellent for general bacteria growth.**

- 1.) Petri dishes should be refrigerated until they will be used and should always be upside down (i.e. media in upper plate, cover on bottom). Store upside-down to keep condensation which forms in the lid from dropping into the agar and contaminating or even destroying the bacteria colonies.
- 2.) When ready to use, let dishes come to room temperature before taking samples (allow a few hours).
- 3.) a. If you are growing bacteria from your hands, press fingers firmly against the agar and replace dish in the lid, upside down. Let grow in undisturbed warm location.  
  
b. If you will be growing bacteria from counter tops, doorknobs, etc., you will need an inoculating loop or sterile swabs to collect the samples. Transfer the sample by rubbing the loop/swab across the agar, then replace dish in the lid. Let grow in undisturbed warm location.
- 4.) You should see growth within a couple of days. The dishes will start to smell which means the bacteria is growing. When the project is finished dishes can be thrown away in your trash can.
- 5.) We have specific experiments at our online Info Center...  
<http://www.sciencecompany.com/-W155.aspx>

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