

Pouring Agar Plates



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How to Pour Melted or Recently Autoclaved Media

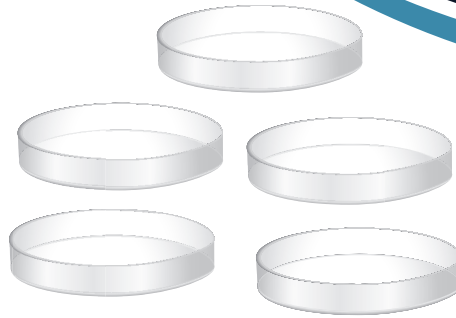


1

Select a draft-free area to pour your plates.

Clean the area with 70% ethanol or a 10% bleach solution.

Wash and dry your hands.



2

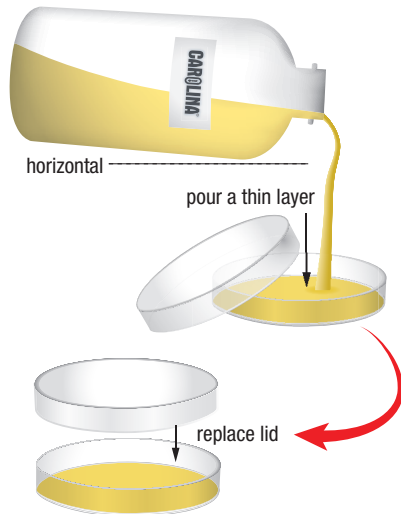
Set out closed sterile plates. Plan to pour all the media at once. Multiple pours increase the risk of contamination.



3

Cool the agar to 45° C. Sterilize the mouth of the bottle with a flame or an alcohol pad.

Once the bottle of media is cool enough (to about 45–55° C), the agar is ready to pour.



4

Minimize contamination by keeping the bottle as close to horizontal as possible and lifting the lid of the dish just enough to pour the media.

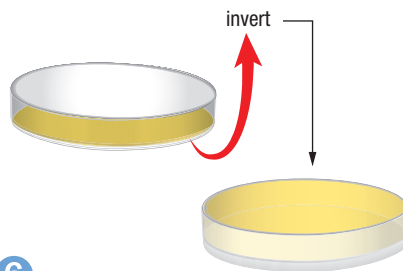
Pour a thin layer of media, enough to cover the bottom of the plate, then immediately replace the lid.



30 MIN-
overnight

5

Allow at least 30 minutes and up to overnight for the media to solidify before using.



6

Invert the plates so that the media is on top and the lid on the bottom. This will minimize condensation on the plates.



7

Place inverted plates in a plastic bag, label with the type of media, and store at 4° C.

Plates may be stored for 2–4 weeks before use.

Things to Remember:

- Use heat-resistant gloves when melting the agar.
- Minimize the exposure of the media to air.
- Plan to pour all the media at once. Multiple pours increase the risk of contamination.
- Plates may be stored for 2–4 weeks before use.