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redipor by Cherwell

Storage Conditions

Storage Temperatures for Prepared Media

The correct storage of prepared media products will ensure high quality plates or bottles at time and point of use. Incorrect storage can lead to excessive condensation within plated media and/or deterioration of product performance.

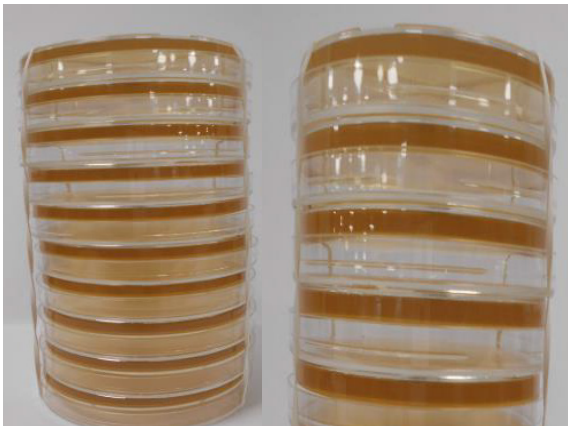
The following guidance applies to Redipor® products:

Agar Plates - General

The recommended storage conditions for all agar plates is a cool ambient room temperature defined as 10 to 25°C and which is not subject to any great fluctuation in temperature. Direct heat, sunlight and a damp or dirty environment should also be avoided.

Storage in a cold room or refrigerator is not recommended as this will potentially increase condensation within the plate and on the agar surface making it difficult to inoculate and/or interpret.

It is normal practice, if plates are removed from the box, with the agar inverted. During storage if moisture appears in the lids they may be experiencing temperature fluctuations driving the moisture out of the agar. The easiest way to combat this is to re-invert the plates to allow the agar to reabsorb the moisture. Conversely if the plates are stored without the agar being inverted and condensation is appearing in the lid, then again there is a possibility of temperature fluctuations. In both cases, moving the plates to more stable conditions should allow the agar to reabsorb the moisture.



Agar Inverted

Agar Not Inverted

Each pack of plates is identified with a label confirming storage conditions and an expiry date.

Non-irradiated Plates

Non-irradiated plates typically have a shelf life of 8 weeks to 3 months, depending on type, if stored as recommended.

Once the plastic packaging is opened, the plates should be stored at the same temperature as stated above and in a clean environment. They should be used within 1-3 days of opening as the agar may dehydrate or become contaminated.

If plates show signs of dehydration, shrinkage of the agar or contamination they should not be used and be discarded.

Irradiated Plates

A clean storage environment is desirable to prevent contamination of the outside of the pack and potential transfer to higher grade areas.

Most irradiated media has a shelf life of 6 months, if stored as recommended.

Irradiated media is supplied in larger pack sizes, e.g. 90mm Petri dishes are generally packed as 15 packs of 10 plates, within an outer bag and box. When removing only a few packs from the box, it is advisable to close the bag to prevent contamination of the packaging.

Once the packaging of an individual pack of 10 has been opened, the plates should be stored at the same temperature as stated above and in a clean environment. The 10 plates should be used within 1 day of being opened.

If plates show signs of dehydration or shrinkage of the agar they should not be used and should be discarded. If an individual plate within a pack shows signs of contamination, the whole pack should not be opened and should be discarded.

Bottle Broths & Agars

The recommended storage conditions for bottled media is a cool ambient room temperature defined as 10 to 25°C which is not subject to any great fluctuation in temperature. Direct heat, sunlight, and a damp or dirty environment should also be avoided.

Storage in a cold room or refrigerator is not recommended.

The majority of bottled media have a shelf life of 3-12 months, depending on type if stored in these conditions. Each bottle is identified with a label confirming storage conditions and an expiry date. Once a bottle has been opened it should be used immediately as the sterility can no longer be assured.

If a broth shows signs of significant discolouration or turbidity, it should not be used and should be discarded.

Expiry Dates

The correct interpretation of the Expiry date on our product label and on the Certificate of Analysis is the last day on which the medium should be exposed or inoculated. The incubation period for the appropriate test can come after that and might be 14 days in the case of a sterility test or process validation.

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