

T.T.C. DIPSLIDES

FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF BACTERIAL
CONTAMINATION IN FLUIDS

■ STORAGE

Dipslides should be stored in a cool dark place prior to use.

Correctly stored these dipslides will have a shelf life of 6-9 months and within this period will remain suitable for use as long as there is no visible contamination and the agar surface remains smooth and attached to the slide.

■ HOW TO USE

Unscrew the sealing cap from the dip slide container and withdraw the combined cap and tongue unit.

Hold by the cap to avoid touching the agar culture medium. Immerse the dip slide tongue into the fluid to be tested, or expose the slide to the running fluid, ensuring that both agar surfaces are fully wetted. Remove the slide from the fluid and allow

excess liquid to drain off for a few seconds.

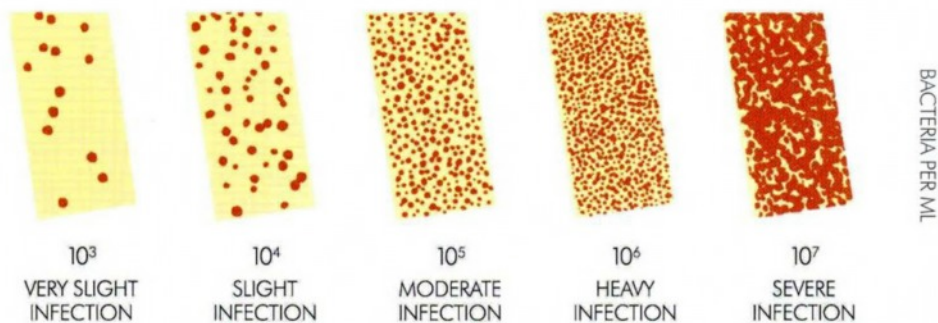
Replace the screw cap and tongue in the container.

■ INCUBATION

The dip slide should be incubated at a temperature of 30°C or at an approximate temperature equal to that of the fluid to be tested. The incubation temperature should be the same each time the test is performed to ensure a meaningful comparison from one to the other.

The incubation period for bacteria is usually 24-48 hours.

If the incubation temperature is considerably cooler than the fluid to be tested, microbial growth may be slowed and continued incubation for a further few days may be necessary to detect the presence of organisms.



■ INTERPRETATION

Most aerobic bacteria will grow on the T.T.C. agar as red colonies. The density or numbers of the colonies, both red and colourless, should be compared with the chart above.

If the fluid to be tested has a severe infection, a confluent growth can appear on the surface of the slide, rather than distinct colonies. If this growth is colourless it could be misinterpreted as a negative result.

To prevent this all apparently clear dipslides should be examined against a reflective light or compared with a sterile and unused dip slide.

■ DISPOSAL

Used dipslides should be carefully disposed of either by incineration or soaking the slide and its container in bleach overnight.