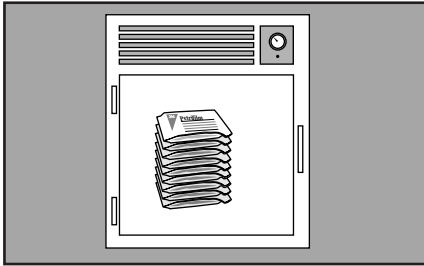


# 3M Petrifilm™ E. coli / Coliform Count Plates

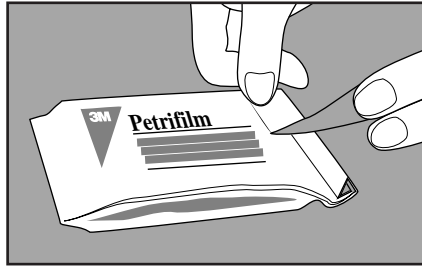
## Reminders for Use

For detailed WARNING, CAUTIONS, DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES / LIMITED REMEDY, LIMITATION OF 3M LIABILITY, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL information, and INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE see Product's package insert.

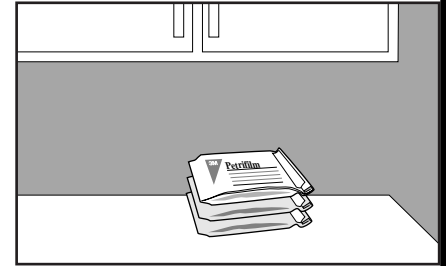
### Storage



- 1 Store unopened packages at  $\leq 8^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 46^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Use before expiration date on package. In areas of high humidity where condensation may be an issue, it may be necessary to allow packages to reach room temperature before opening.



- 2 To seal opened package, fold end over and tape shut.



- 3 Keep resealed package at  $\leq 25^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 77^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and  $< 50\% \text{RH}$ . **Do not refrigerate opened packages.** Use Petrifilm plates within one month after opening.

# STEPS 1 THROUGH 6

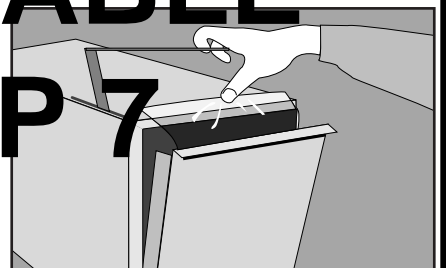
### Sample Preparation



- 4 Prepare a 1:10 or greater dilution of food product. Weigh or pipette food product into an appropriate container such as a stomacher bag, dilution bottle, Whirl-Pak® bag, or other sterile container.



- 5 Add appropriate quantity of one of the following sterile diluents: Butterfield's phosphate buffer, 0.0425 g/L of  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  adjusted to pH 7.2, 0.1% peptone water, peptone salt diluent (ISO method 6887), buffered peptone water (ISO method 6887-1), saline solution (0.85-0.90%), bisulfite-free letheen broth, or distilled water.



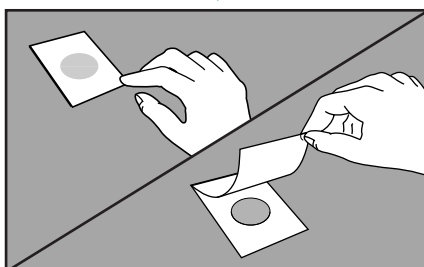
- 6 Blend or homogenize sample per current procedure.

Adjust pH of the diluted sample between 6.5 and 7.5.

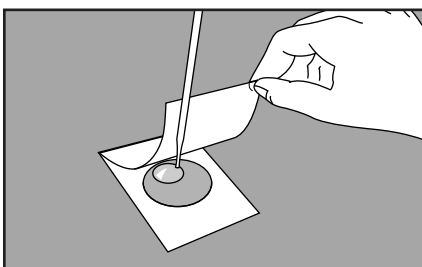
- for acid products, use 1N NaOH,
- for alkaline products, use 1N HCl.

Do not use buffers containing citrate, bisulfite, or thiosulfate; they can inhibit growth.

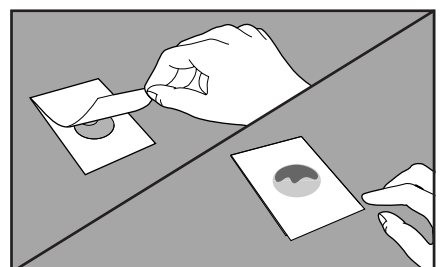
### Inoculation



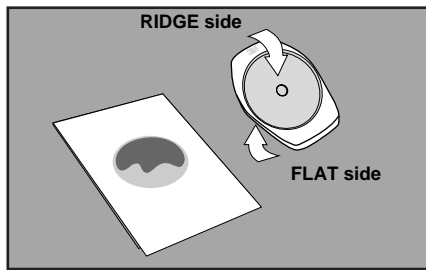
- 7 Place Petrifilm plate on **level** surface. Lift top film.



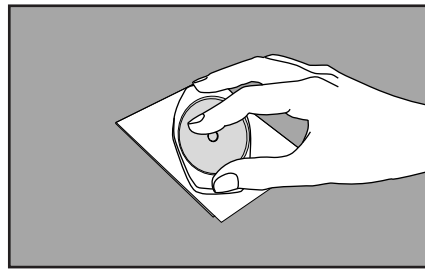
- 8 With pipette **perpendicular** to Petrifilm plate, place 1 mL of sample onto center of bottom film.



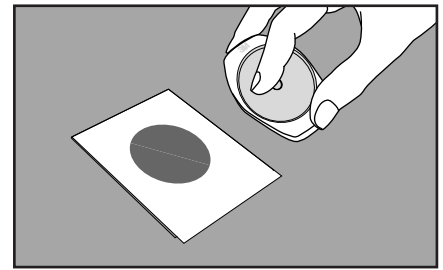
- 9 Carefully **ROLL** top film down to avoid entrapping air bubbles. **Do NOT** let top film drop.



With **FLAT** side down, place spreader on top film over inoculum.

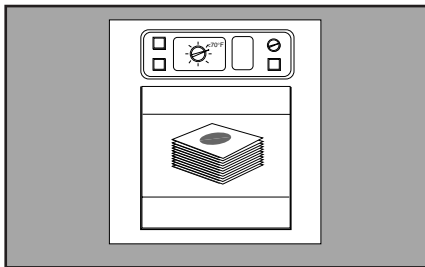


**11** **GENTLY** apply pressure on spreader to distribute inoculum over circular area before gel is formed. Do not twist or slide the spreader.



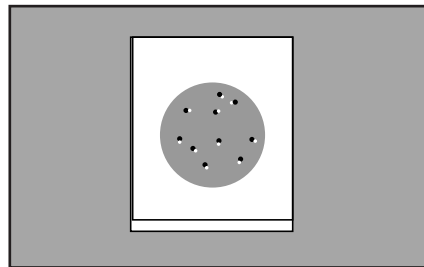
**12** Lift spreader. Wait a minimum of one minute for gel to solidify.

## Incubation

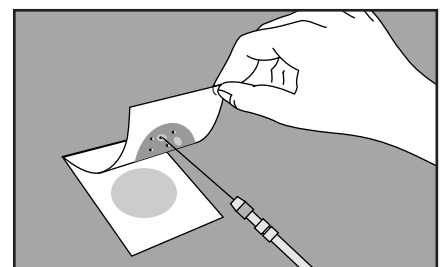


**13** Incubate plates with clear side up in stacks of no more than 20. It may be necessary to humidify incubator to minimize moisture loss.

## Interpretation



**14** Petrifilm plates can be counted on a standard colony counter or other illuminated magnifier. Refer to the *Interpretation Guide* section when reading results.



**15** Colonies may be isolated for further identification. Lift top film and pick the colony from the gel.

Incubation time and temperature varies by method. Most common approved methods:

### AOAC Official Method 991.14

for coliforms: incubate 24h ± 2h at 35°C ± 1°C  
for *E.coli*: incubate 48h ± 2h at 35°C ± 1°C

### AOAC Official Method 998.08

for *E.coli* (for meat, poultry and seafood):  
incubate 24h ± 2h at 35°C ± 1°C

### NMKL method (147.1993)

for coliforms: incubate 24h ± 2h at 37°C  
for *E.coli*: incubate 48h ± 2h at 37°C

## Additional Comments

- Questions? U.S., Call **1-800-328-6553**, Canada, call **1-800-265-1840 x6574** for technical service.
- To order Petrifilm plates in the U.S., call **1-800-328-1671**
- Latin America / Africa and Asia Pacific regions, call **1-651-733-7562**.

**3M**

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