

# Easygel® Method Procedure

**USE ONLY THE PROVIDED SPECIALLY COATED EASYGEL PETRI DISHES** Plain petri dishes will NOT solidify!!!

## **Pour Plate Instructions: Option 1 (Preferred)**

- 1) Prepare your sample as you would for an agar pour petri dish. **(Remember, Easygel is not Agar!!)**
- 2) Open a bottle of Easygel medium and add the inoculum. Swirl gently to mix.
- 3) Pour the Easygel/Inoculum mixture into a specially coated Easygel petri dish. Swirl to cover the petri dish.
- 4) At this point either:
  - a) Place the unsolidified Easygel petri dish upright in a leveled incubator and leave undisturbed for at least 8 hours. This method is preferred. (Condensate will not normally form, but if some is present, invert the dishes when removing from the incubator.)
  - or b) Allow the Easygel petri dish to solidify completely on a level surface and then incubate. If desired, the petri dishes may be inverted after they are fully solidified (several hours-overnight).
- 5) Read results as you would agar-based media.

## **Pour Plate Instructions: Option 2**

**DO NOT** add inoculum directly to empty petri dishes. Pour the Easygel in first.

- 1) Pour all of the Easygel medium into a petri dish.
- 2) Within 5 minutes of pouring, add the inoculum to the Easygel in the petri dish. Swirl several times to disperse.
- 3) At this point either:
  - a) Place the unsolidified Easygel petri dish upright in a leveled incubator and leave undisturbed for at least 8 hours. This method is preferred. (Condensate will not normally form, but if some is present, invert the dishes when removing from the incubator.)
  - or b) Allow the Easygel petri dish to solidify completely on a level surface and then incubate. If desired, the petri dishes may be inverted after they are fully solidified (several hours-overnight).
- 4) Read results as you would agar based media.

## **Streak Plate Instructions:**

- 1) Pour the Easygel into a specially coated Easygel petri dish and allow to solidify on a level surface. For best results, let the gel harden for several hours before using. When convenient, pouring the petri dishes a day or two before using is a good idea (the surface is easier to streak). These pre-poured petri dishes have an excellent shelf life as long as they do not dry out or become contaminated.
- 2) Use standard streaking techniques. Incubate as you would agar-based media.

## **Troubleshooting**

### Problem

1) No colony dispersion.

2) Poor colony dispersion.

3) Slightly higher counts on Easygel than on standard agar.

### Cause and Solution

Inoculum was added to the petri dish before the Easygel was poured. Either add inoculum to the bottle or add inoculum after the Easygel has been poured.

The inoculum was not thoroughly mixed with Easygel. Either swirl the petri dish more aggressively or swirl the bottle a few extra times.

Heat sensitive organisms, killed by hot agar, can survive ambient Easygel. This gives a more accurate picture of the microbial population of your product.