

# Easygel® Method Procedure for Liquid Samples\*

**Use only the provided specially coated petri dishes** Plain petri dishes will NOT solidify!!!

The following instructions are for testing a liquid sample with Total Count, Nutrient or Coliform Easygel. Total Count and Nutrient Easygel are for general bacteria growth and Coliform Easygel is for coliform growth.

## **Pour Plate Instructions**

- 1) Open a bottle of Easygel and add the inoculum. Swirl gently to mix.
- 2) Pour the Easygel/Inoculum mixture into a petri dish. Swirl gently to cover the petri dish.
- 3) Incubate dish(es) in an incubator or at room temperature following either of the following steps:
  - a) Place the unsolidified Easygel petri dish(es) upright in the incubator or other place of incubation. If desired, the petri dishes may be inverted anytime after they are solidified (approx. 40 minutes). Continue incubation.
  - or b) Allow the petri dish to solidify on a level surface for approximately 40 minutes and then incubate.
- 4) Read results and count colonies.\*\* Colonies on Total Count and Nutrient Easygel will tend to be colorless or pale (if Easygel T-salt coated petri dishes are used the colonies will be pink or red). Colonies on Coliform Easygel will be blue-green in color. If there are too many colonies to allow for easy counting, a new sample, either a lesser amount or using a dilution, will be necessary.

**Water Testing:** Beginning with step 1 above, use a sterile pipette (dropper) to add 1 to 5 milliliters (or alternatively 0.1 mL-- approx. 3 drops) of water to the liquid Easygel in the bottle. Incubate at 35° C or room temperature for 48 hours.

\*\*For water- To report in terms of colonies per 100 mL of water, first find the number to multiply by:

1. Divide 100 by the number of mL that you used for your sample.
  2. Multiply the count in your dish by the result obtained from #1.
- e.g. For a 3 mL sample you counted 4 colonies.

1.  $100 / 3 = 33.3$ .

2. So 4 colonies multiplied by 33.3 will be equal to 133.2 colonies per 100 mL of water.

## **Trouble Shooting**

### Problem

### Cause and Solution

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) No colony dispersion.                                    | 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.       |
| 2) Poor colony dispersion.                                  | The inoculum was not thoroughly mixed with Easygel. Either swirl the petri dish more aggressively or swirl the bottle a few extra times.                       |
| 3) Slightly higher counts on Easygel than on standard agar. | Heat sensitive organisms, killed by hot agar, can survive ambient Easygel. This gives you a more accurate picture of the microbial population of your product. |

**\*These instructions are not intended to be used with Coliscan Easygel.**