



User manual

Plate Count Agar (Product No. 8.43221.244)

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1. Information

Plate Count Agar (PCA) is used for the quantitative detection of total viable microbial count in the beverage industry.

Plate Count Agar (pH 7.0 ± 0.2) is a ready-to-use agar for the fast and safe quantitative detection of the total microbial content in the food and beverage industry. PCA (also known as Tryptone Glucose Yeast Agar or Casein-Peptone Dextrose Yeast Agar) complies with the specifications given by the American Public Health Association (APHA) and ISO 4833.

2. Handling

Required Material

Laminar flow workbench
Water bath
Petri dishes
Incubator

Application

Please work under sterile conditions to avoid secondary contamination of the samples.

Melt the bottle content in a water bath at 95°C/203°F. Avoid overheating and remove the medium as soon as it is completely dissolved. The screw cap should be loosened before heating and closed tightly after removal from the water bath. To avoid glass breakage, it is recommended to leave the bottles on a heat-resistant surface at room temperature for a short period, e.g. 2 min, before placing them in a 45-50°C/113-122°F water bath to cool.

Ensure that the agar does not solidify again.

Do not leave the liquefied agar for longer than 4 h at 45-50°C/113-122°F in a water bath. This damages the agar structure and permanently changes its solidifying properties.

Repeated heating can restrain the functionality.

1. Perform serial dilutions of the test sample to achieve a colony count of 15-300 CFU per plate.
2. Inoculate the medium by pouring, plating or membrane filtration.

Incubation

Incubate aerobically for 72 hours at a temperature of 29-31°C/84-88°F.

Evaluation

Count colonies on all plates that show 15-300 CFU. Document the colony count per gram or per mL of the sample, taking the dilution factor used into account.



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3. Storage and Packaging Information

Packaging and Content

unit	Cardboard Box (6x200 mL in glass bottles)
unit size (Box)	approx. 22 cm x 14 cm x 16 cm / 8.7 in x 5.5 in x 6.3 in
unit gross weight (Box)	approx. 2.2 kg/ 4,9 lbs.

Storage

Store at 10-25°C/50-77°F according to product specification.
Store under dry and dark conditions.

Waste Disposal

No dangerous good.
No hazardous material.
Please consider your local waste regulations.
Not inoculated media can be disposed of with normal laboratory waste.
Inoculated and incubated media are to be sterilized before disposal at a temperature of media 121°C /250°F for 20 min.

Warnings

Do not boil or freeze product.
Always wear protective clothing when handling hot media.

4. Related Products

Target micro-organisms	Sample type	Product	Format	Item no.	Packaging	pH	Incubation		
							T [°C]	t [d]	Condition
General	General	TSA	Agar	8.43326.244	6 x 200 ml (glass bottles)	7,3 ± 0,2	30 ± 1	3	aerobic
		TSB	Broth	8.43246.244	6 x 200 ml (glass bottles)	7,3 ± 0,2	30 - 35 20 - 25	< 3 5	aerobic