

UCD IMPROVE Technical Information #251Q

Cleaning Petri Dishes

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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03/04/2022	SRS	All	Previously anthologized version separated into individual TIs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Purpose and Applicability.....	4
2. Summary of the Method	4
3. Cautions	4
4. Personnel Qualifications	4
5. Equipment and Supplies	4
6. Procedural Steps.....	4

1. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

The purpose of this TI is to describe how the Petri dishes in the sample handling laboratory are cleaned.

2. SUMMARY OF THE METHOD

Petri dish bottoms and lids are cleaned using ethanol and laboratory wipes. The bottoms and lids are placed faced up and set to air dry. The remaining particles are then blown out with a rubber bulb pump to ensure that no cross-contamination occurs. All laboratory wipes are disposed of.

3. CAUTIONS

Be cautious when using ethanol, follow proper personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines via the ethanol MSDS. When examining Petri dishes ensure that each dish is empty. If a Petri dish has a filter alert a lead laboratory technician.

4. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

Trained undergraduate students and laboratory technicians are the only personnel who perform Petri dish cleaning.

5. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- Ethanol in appropriate container
- Nitrile gloves
- Lab coat
- Safety glasses/goggles
- Laboratory wipes
- Forceps for sticker removal
- Rubber bulb pump

6. PROCEDURAL STEPS

1. Retrieve and put on PPE.
2. Clean the working bench using ethanol and laboratory wipes.
3. Remove label from the inventory tray using forceps labeled “Sticker”.
4. Remove Petri dishes and clean the inventory tray.
5. Remove the sticker from all lids.
6. Wet a laboratory wipe with ethanol, wipe down the inside of the bottom and lid. Ensure to get all areas. Place the lid and bottom faced up to allow the ethanol to evaporate. Repeat with all 50 Petri dishes.

7. Blow out any remaining particles with the rubber bulb pump.
8. Place the lid onto the bottom of the Petri dish. Stack all 50 Petri dishes in the inventory tray.
9. Dispose of all laboratory wipes.