

# Easygel® Method Procedure

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

## Pour Plate Instructions: Option 1

- 1) Prepare your sample as you would for an agar pour petri dish.
- 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 petri dish. Swirl to cover the petri dish.
- 4) At this point you may either:
  - a) Place the unsolidified Easygel petri dish upright in the incubator. If desired, the petri dishes may be inverted anytime after they are solidified. Continue normal incubation. This method is preferred.
  - or b) Allow the petri dish to solidify on a level surface for approximately 40 minutes and then incubate.
- 5) Incubate and 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 you may either:
  - a) Place the unsolidified Easygel petri dish upright in the incubator. If desired, the petri dishes may be inverted anytime after they are solidified. Continue normal incubation. This method is preferred.
  - or b) Allow the petri dish to solidify on a level surface for approximately 40 minutes and then incubate.

## Streak Plate Instructions:

- 1) Pour the Easygel into a specially coated 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.

## Trouble Shooting

### 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.