

Oatmeal Agar Preparation



Introduction

Use the following instructions to prepare oatmeal agar for certain fungi cultures.

Safety Precautions

Exercise caution when working with the autoclave or pressure cooker as it is very hot. Wear goggles, gloves and a chemical resistant apron. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the laboratory. Follow all laboratory safety guidelines. Please review current Material Safety Data Sheets for additional safety, handling and disposal information.

Materials

Agar, 4 g	Culture dishes, sterile
Oatmeal, 5 g	Gauze, 6" × 6", folded
Water, distilled or deionized	Graduated cylinder, 250-mL
Balance, 0.1-g precision	Hot plate
Beaker, 400-mL	Mortar and pestle

Procedure

1. Mass 5 g of oatmeal. Place the oatmeal in mortar and grind with the pestle.
2. Using a 250-mL graduated cylinder measure 200 mL of distilled water.
3. Transfer the water and oatmeal to a 400-mL beaker.
4. Place the beaker on a hot plate and bring the solution to a boil for 20 minutes.
5. Pour off the supernatant fluid through gauze to remove the oat residue.
6. Add 4.0 g of agar to the fluid and boil until dissolved.
7. Allow the agar to cool to 50–55 °C and pour into sterile culture dishes.

Disposal

Please consult your current *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for general guidelines and specific procedures, and review all federal, state and local regulations that may apply, before proceeding. All microorganisms purchased from Flinn Scientific are non-pathogenic. However, to be safe all bacterial and fungal cultures should be considered pathogenic and destroyed according to Flinn Biological Waste Disposal Type I before disposal in the trash. The best way to dispose of fungi on agar plates is to autoclave them in a heat-stable biohazard bag. If an autoclave is not available an alternative is to bleach the plates. Saturate the agar plates with a freshly prepared 10% household bleach solution. Allow plates to sit for 24 hours before disposing.

The materials necessary to prepare *Oatmeal Agar* are available from Flinn Scientific, Inc.

Catalog No.	Description
A0257	Agar, Bacteriological Grade, 25 g
AP2298	Cylinder, Polymethylpentene, 250-mL
GP1025	Beaker, Borosilicate Glass, 400-mL
AP7299	Hot Plate, Flinn, 4" × 4"

Consult your *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for current prices.