



# User manual

## Plate Count Agar (Product No. 8.76631.782)

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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 is also known as Tryptone Glucose Yeast Agar or Casein-Peptone Dextrose Yeast Agar. The culture medium complies with the requirements of EN ISO 4833 and ISO 17410 as well as the requirements given by FDA-BAM and the American Public Health Association (APHA).

The performance test of this culture medium is carried out in accordance with the current version of the EN ISO 11133.

### 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. 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 placing a membrane filter on the medium.

#### Incubation

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



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### 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.

### 3. Storage and Packaging Information

#### Packaging and Content

unit Cardboard Box (9x250 mL in glass bottles)  
unit size (Box) approx. 22 cm x 22 cm x 18 cm / 8.7 in x 8.7 in x 7.1 in  
unit gross weight (Box) approx. 4.1 kg/ 9.04 lbs.

#### Storage

Store at 4-8°C/40-46°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 have to be sterilized before disposal at a temperature of 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