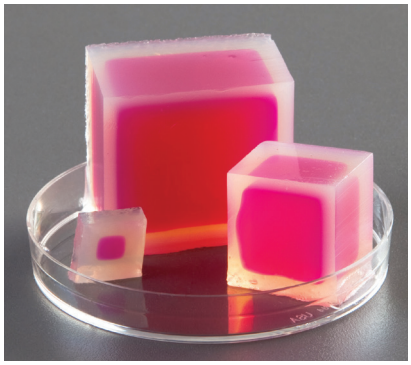
Ward's Prepared Agar Cubes



Primary Hazard Considerations

- Some bacteriological media can cause skin reactions in individuals with sensitivities. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when working with bacteriological media. Always wash your hands with soap and hot water before and after working with bacteriological media.
- Agar cubes are stored in a sodium hydroxide solution. This can cause skin irritation and can be harmful if ingested. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Always wear gloves and safety glasses when manipulating.
- Always clean your work area and practice safe handling when working with any bacteriological medium.

Availability

- Agar cubes are available for purchase year-round. Please note, most school curriculum is closely scheduled and some lead time may be needed for orders of more than 5-10 jars.

Care

- Do not remove the agar cubes from the solution in their jars. This prevents drying out and also keeps the color of the pH indicator within the agar.
- Please refrigerate the agar cubes upon receipt unless you plan to use them within a few hours.
- Agar cubes may be stored refrigerated for up to 3 months if not used. Longer storage may encourage the growth of mold and discoloration, which will confound the results of your experiment.

FAQs

What if my agar cubes have been stored longer than 3 months? Can I use them?

- It is a case by case situation, in which some cubes may have mold growth on them and others may have discolored. Trying to add more phenolphthalein to the solution may help with the discoloration, but will not correct the mold growth. If mold is present, it is recommended that you do not use the agar and that you discard it, using the disposition suggestions below.

Can I reuse my agar cubes for another class?

- It is not recommended to reuse agar cubes since most cubes will have been cut and, hence, will no longer be cube shaped.

Will the agar cubes turn back pink after placing them in vinegar?

- Yes, as long as the cubes have been patted dry by paper towel, and the vinegar is not transferred back to the sodium hydroxide solution.

Disposition

- Consult your school's procedures for disposal.
- Pour off sodium hydroxide and any vinegar solutions down the drain. Run the water for a few minutes after to make sure all the chemicals have been properly drained and diluted.
- All other solid material, including agar, can be disposed of in the regular trash.
- Clean and disinfect work areas and properly wash hands with soap and hot water.

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