

Aseptic technique for plating

Before you begin, think about what you need to do and make sure everything is labeled

Work quickly, but carefully

Work near your Bunsen burner, it will reduce airborne contamination.

Procedure

1. Put on gloves, briefly rub ethanol on your gloved hands.
2. Spray area with ethanol, wipe off with a paper towel if necessary.
3. Light Bunsen burner.
4. Using your non-dominant hand, hold your tube and open it with your dominant hand. If the tube has a screwtop lid, put the lid of the tube into your non-dominant hand.
5. Remove plate lid with your free hand and set it upside down near your plate.
6. Use your pipette to pick up the appropriate volume of culture, then dispense into the center of the plate.
7. Close your culture tube and place in rack. Cover your plate with the lid.
8. Using ethanol, sterilize your spreader by passing it BRIEFLY through the flame of your burner to ignite it. Do not hold the spreader over the burner.
9. Let the ethanol burn off your spreader, then allow the spreader to cool for 30 seconds. Do not set it down or touch anything with it.
10. Once spreader has cooled, open your plate, holding the lid with your non-dominant hand. Use the same hand to hold the plate steady by grabbing the edge of the plate.
11. Holding the spreader in your dominant hand, use a circular motion to spread the culture evenly across the plate.
12. Cover the plate and return the spreader to the ethanol. Repeat steps 4-11 for each sample.

Materials necessary

LB Plates (with antibiotics and inducers, if necessary)
Pipette tips
Bacterial cultures
Ethanol

Equipment necessary

Spreader
Micropipette
Bunsen burner