Water Science Simplified

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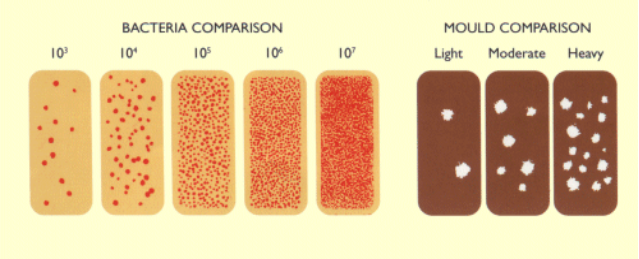
Dipslides

Sampling & Testing Notes

Delivering simplicity and affordability through innovation.

Since early 2001 the weekly monitoring of bacteria levels in cooling water has been recommended by many legislators and professional authorities as a visual performance indicator to both system and treatment regime. This allows the user to gauge how effective a chemical or biocide product is in the particular application and a trend can be quickly established identifying changes and taking quick remedial action where required. It should be noted from the outset that Dipslides alone do not detect Legionella as a select micro-organism, however it is generally accepted that overall bacteria levels in excess of 10^4 are considered able to support Legionella and obviously a serious risk.

The dipslide consists of a plastic paddle with culture media on each side, the tube keeps the media both moist & sterile until required. The product most suitable is a slide based on a standard nutrient agar with a red dye supplement added during production, this has the advantage of showing any viable colonies as red dots, easily identified and compared against the comparison chart.



IMPORTANT – Monitoring is not a substitute for a treatment regime, it is always best to seek the advice of a professional water treatment or environmental company who will supply a risk assessment together with the required treatment system. The advantage of your weekly monitoring program is you can see how well the system is performing and identify any problems in house in-between visits. Counts should **never exceed 10^4** at any time.

Sampling & Testing with Dipslides

1 – Prior to use please keep the slides in a cool place (not a fridge) at around 10 - 15°C.

Dipslides have a typical shelf life

of 8 – 9 months. Once the dipslide is opened care must be taken not to touch the media or expose the media to the atmosphere in order to prevent false contamination.

2 – Ideally the sample should be taken in a clean container rinsed with the water to be tested. You can also sample directly from the

tower sump ensuring you do not touch any of the surfaces. Submerge the dipslide to the top of the culture media for around 2 seconds and then shake gently to remove excess fluid replacing in the tube.

3 – Place the slide into the Incubator, the correct temperature is 30°C for a period of 48 hours. Incubation is vital for accurate

results. The dipslides should only be incubated in an incubator. If you are mobile you must ensure you incubate the dipslides in a dual voltage incubator which will operate in a vehicle.