



Getting the best from dipslides

Dipslides offer a simple and convenient method of bacteria monitoring without the need for specialist microbiological skills for both sampling and interpretation. In order to achieve the best results please follow the following recommendations prior to use.

Store in a cool place where temperature remains fairly constant, a cupboard in a store room is ideal where heating is only minimal; the best temperature is around 12-15°C. Needless to say storage in direct sunlight or against a warm surface such as a wall opposite a radiator will dramatically reduce the life of the slides and must be avoided; draughts also result in temperature differential and cause excessive condensation to build up in the tube. Water building up in the tube in excess of 5mm indicates storage may not be ideal.

Pack securely when shipping, if the box of slides is loose in an outer carton then it is almost like not using the seatbelt in a car! Jiffy bags are not recommended for posting odd boxes.



The picture shows classic dislodgement of agar due to rough handling, a box of slides will actually withstand falling from table height but during freight some packages seem to be subjected to extreme shock so careful packing is essential

Do not refrigerate! This would seem logical to store slides in this way but in fact the sudden change in temperature downwards causes the air in the tubes to contract so rapidly that the seal around the paddle top can let a small amount of air into the slide and with this comes atmospheric contamination such as spores and moulds.

Transport in vehicles is also another important area to consider – if slides are left in a car boot the temperature differential can be very wide, especially if the sun is strong and again this will create the same problems as refrigeration but on the opposite scale. If you need to carry slides in your vehicle for in excess of a couple of days a cool box **without** the ice pack is an ideal storage method and prevents the product moving around excessively. Keep slides not required immediately indoors.



This slide has a single yeast contamination on the malt extract agar, whilst previously clean it had spent 2 weeks unprotected in a vehicle during the warm September month! 5mm of water had also developed in the bottom of the tube.

Rotation of stock is vital, whilst slides remain good throughout the shelf life if stored correctly pulling the oldest to the front when re-stocking is always the best method.