



## BACTERIA

All our bacteria cultures are safe for use in schools.

All cultures are checked for purity before dispatch and are considered non-pathogenic. However, due to the possibility of contamination and mutation all bacteria should be treated as potentially dangerous. We recommend using aseptic techniques.

For further resources see the **Microbiology Society** (e.g. Basic Practical Microbiology manual) and **CLEAPSS** websites.

## KEY RULES

- Wear a clean lab coat and wash your hands thoroughly before and after
- Never eat in the laboratory or store cultures where food may be stored
- Surfaces should be disinfected with an anti-bacterial cleaner before and after use
- Complete all operations as quickly as possible but without rushing
- All items in contact with bacteria should be sterilised/autoclaved before & after use
- All cultures should be clearly labelled with strain and date

[www.darwinbiological.co.uk](http://www.darwinbiological.co.uk)



All Darwin's bacteria cultures are derived from strains held by the **British National Culture Collection** (NCTC). Founded in 1920, the NCTC is the longest-established collection of its type anywhere in the world and is operated by UKHSA (formerly Public Health England). The bacteria that the collection houses is used globally, in total they have over 5000 strains including samples deposited by Sir Alexander Fleming himself!

Here at Darwin we are proud to support such a British institution by purchasing all starter cultures from the NCTC. These cultures are then sub-cultured before being applied to slopes; by sub-culturing we are able to supply quality bacteria at affordable prices. Our bacteria is a maximum of 4 passages away from the Culture Collection's original. If you require fewer passages, we recommend you purchase directly from the NCTC.



## Storage & Care

All our bacteria should be sub-cultured onto sterile nutrient agar/broth within 1 week of receipt and every few weeks thereafter: Incubate around 25°C until growth is visible (around 2 days) then store in the fridge (4°C). Bring up to room temperature before using.  
CLEAPSS have some great resources about all aspects of storing and using bacteria cultures.