



Counting Cells in a hemocytometer

Protocol

Hemocytometers can be purchased from many major laboratory suppliers. The procedure below gives general directions on how to use the hemocytometer.

1. Clean the cover slip and chamber with alcohol. Dry and put the coverslip into position.
2. Harvest the cells. Add 10 μL of the cells to the hemocytometer. *It is important to not overfill.*
3. Put the chamber in the inverted microscope under a 10X objective. Use phase-contrast to differentiate the cells.
4. Count the cells in the large, central gridded square (1 mm^2). *See the circled area in the graphic below.* Multiply by 10^4 to estimate the number of cells per mL. Prepare duplicate samples and average the count.

