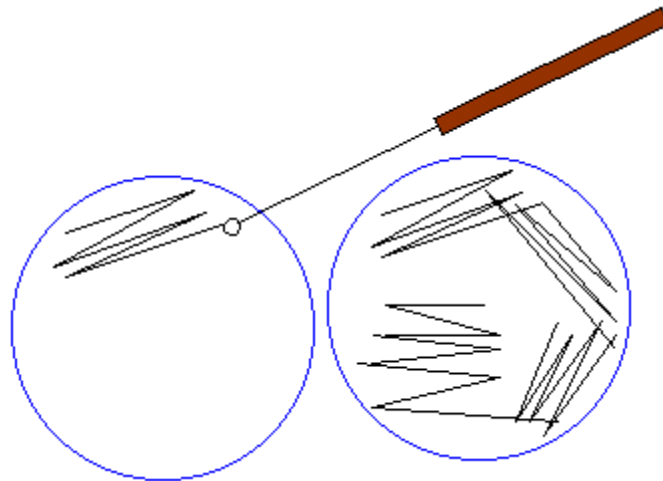


INOCULATION OF AGAR PLATES USING A SWAB

A sterile swab must be used, care must be taken not to contaminate by touching other surfaces. Transfer to the growth media as quickly as possible. Depending on your purposes, you can inoculate the swab in a few ways. Described below is the Zigzag method of inoculation. The inoculation pattern is usually performed when the sample does not have a high cell density or with pure cultures when isolation is not necessary.

1. With this method, a small amount of sample is placed on the agar plate (either with a swab, or as a drop from an inoculating loop if the sample is a liquid).
2. Hold the swab comfortably in one hand and lift the lid of the petri dish with the other. Use the lid of the petri dish to protect the agar from aerial contamination.



This is repeated 2-3 times, moving around the agar plate.

3. Lightly drag the swab across the agar surface in a zigzag pattern.
Ex. ^^^
What should happen is that single bacterial cells get isolated by the streaking, and when the plate is incubated, forming discrete colonies that will have started from just one bacterium each.
4. Replace the lid on the petri dish base. Dispose of swab in the proper receptacle (ex. Biohazard bag)
5. Label the base of the plate with your name, date, environmental source, etc.
6. Incubate plate in an inverted position at 37 degrees C.