

Inoculation Materials:

- Individually wrapped 1mL sterile transfer pipettes
 - 5mL sterile glass sample vials
 - Enough 3M Petrifilm plates for all water samples
 - 3M Petrifilm spreader
1. Obtain sterile pipettes with volume measurements on the sides as well as small (~5mL), sterile sample vials for samples.
 2. Use sterile pipettes to take samples from different locations and store in the containers. Ideally, you should not collect the samples more than 24 hours in advance of incubation. Store the samples in a room temperature environment away from sunlight.
 3. When you are ready for inoculation, place the 3M petrifilm plate on a level surface. Label the petrifilm with the name of the sample that it will be used for.
 4. With a sterile pipette, draw 1mL of samples from the chosen sample vial.
 5. Lift the clear top film and with the pipette perpendicular to the inoculation area slowly dispense 1mL of samples onto the center of the bottom film.
 6. Roll the top film down onto the sample to prevent trapping air bubbles.
 7. Place the 3M Petrifilm spreader with the flat side down on the center of the 3M Petrifilm plate. Press gently on the center of the 3M Petrifilm spreader to distribute the sample evenly. Do not slide the 3M Petrifilm Spreader across the film.
 8. Remove the 3M Petrifilm spreader and leave the 3M Petrifilm plate undisturbed for at least one minute to permit the gel to form.
 9. Your samples are ready to be placed in the Armadillo for incubation. Be sure to handle the Petrifilms carefully when transferring to the Armadillo.