



Instructions for Catalog # 084  
WatR™ Supply Heterotrophic Plate Count  
Revision 090119

Description:

- This standard consists of one glass vial containing one gelatin tablet and a desiccant pouch. The bacteria are contained in the gelatin tablet. One sterile, 100 mL hydrating fluid is also provided.
- The glass vial containing the bacteria should be stored at  $4\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- The hydrating fluid can be stored at room temperature.
- This product is intended to be used as a quality control check of the entire analytical process for the analytes/matrix included in the standard.
- ERA suggests that when subsampling this product prior to analysis you use a minimum sample size of at least 0.2 mL. Using a smaller sample size may invalidate the assigned value and/or uncertainty shown on the certificate of analysis.
- The certified values apply to the diluted sample after following the stated dilution instructions.

Helpful Hints:

- The bacteria are in a lyophilized form in the gelatin tablet and each standard must be hydrated per the following instructions prior to analysis.
- ERA recommends that the quality control guidelines in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, Section 9020B be followed to determine media acceptability prior to analysis.
- “EPA strongly recommends that laboratories evaluate the false-positive and false-negative rates for methods they use for monitoring coliforms... with the intent that if the method they choose has an unacceptable false-positive or false-negative rate, another method can be used.” – 40 CFR 141.21 F.3.12
- As this standard (once hydrated) contains living organisms, it must be analyzed **immediately** following hydration. Certified values on samples not analyzed immediately after hydration cannot be guaranteed.

Instructions:

1. Remove the vial from refrigeration and allow to warm to room temperature.
2. Carefully open the hydrating fluid that has been stored at room temperature.
3. Open the bacteria sample vial and aseptically transfer the gelatin tablet into the hydrating fluid.
4. Properly dispose of the empty glass vial and desiccant pouch.
5. Reseal the bottle that now contains the bacteria sample.
6. With the bottle tightly closed, shake the sample for a few seconds. Observe the sample to confirm that the gelatin tablet has dissolved. If the tablet has not completely dissolved, shake for a few more seconds.
7. Analyze the inoculated sample using your normal procedures.

Safety:

- ERA products may be hazardous and are intended for use by professional laboratory personnel trained in the competent handling of such materials. Responsibility for the safe use of these products rests entirely with the buyer and/or user. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all ERA products are available through our website. [www.eraqc.com](http://www.eraqc.com)
- **ERA Microbiology standards contain live microorganisms** and should be used only by individuals with bacteriological training.
- Properly disinfect any spills and sterilize used containers by autoclaving before disposal.