

# Introduction

## Intended Use

InTray™ COLOREX™ ECC is a simple, fast and reliable tool for the simultaneous detection and enumeration of *E. coli* and other coliforms in food and water samples.

## Description and Principle

Coliforms are lactose positive *Enterobacteriaceae* and are present in human and warm-blooded animals intestinal flora, in the soil and water. *E. coli* and coliform presence are proof of organic, environmental or fecal contamination. Fecal contamination, due to coliforms coming from animal waste, consists mainly of *Escherichia coli* and thermo-tolerant *Klebsiella*. Strict regulations exist for *E. coli*/coliform presence in water and food samples. *E. coli* can contaminate drinking water when water treatment systems are inadequate or during periods of high rainfall. Monitoring of food and water production is essential. High contamination may lead to suspension of water supply and food recall by supermarkets. In the U.S.A. the EPA regulates quality standards for surface and drinking water through the Total Coliform Rule (TRC). COLOREX ECC is listed in the FDA BAM for Detecting Foodborne Pathogens.

## Reagents and Appearance

COLOREX ECC media appears transparent with a light amber hue and contains agar, peptone nutrients, antimicrobial selective compounds and chromogenic additives. Final media pH is  $7.2 \pm 0.2$

## Precautions, Safety and Disposal

Read the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and follow the handling instructions. Wear appropriate protective eyewear, clothing and gloves.

Do not use if package is damaged.

Once the tray has been inoculated and resealed, re-open only in a biological safety cabinet. Because of the potential for containing infectious materials, the tray must be destroyed by autoclaving at 121°C for 20 minutes.

## Storage

Upon receipt, store InTray COLOREX ECC under refrigeration (2-8°C). Medium can be kept for one day at ambient temperature. Avoid freezing or prolonged storage at temperatures above 40°C. Do not open until ready to use. Do not use if the medium shows signs of deterioration or contamination.

## Shelf Life

Expiration is 6 months from the date of manufacture.

# Procedure

## Materials Provided

- InTray COLOREX ECC

## Materials Required but Not Provided

- Sterile sampling and inoculation tool (e.g., filter/swab/loop)
- Laboratory incubator capable of incubation at 37°C and, depending on application, 30°C or 44°C

### 1 Prepare InTray



Allow InTray to warm to 18-25°C.

Lift the lower right corner of the flexible InTray label until the protective seal is completely visible.

### 2 Open Seals



Remove the paper-foil seal by pulling the tab.

Discard the seal.

**Do not remove or alter the white filter strip over the vent hole.**

### 3 Inoculate Sample



Streak sample onto the agar surface for isolation.

### 4 Secure InTray



Reseal the InTray label to the plastic tray body. Press all around the perimeter of the InTray to ensure a complete seal.

Immediately label the InTray with sample information and date.

**Do not cover the viewing window.**

## Incubation

Incubate at 37°C for 24 hours under ambient atmosphere. Colonies of *E. coli* appear blue, coliforms are mauve. For research focused on fecal coliform detection, incubate at 44°C; for total coliforms, incubate at 30°C.

## Quality Control

This product has been tested and meets the CLSI (formerly NCCLS) Approved Standard for commercially prepared media (M22-A3). At the time of manufacture, quality control testing is performed on each lot of the InTray COLOREX ECC. The ability of the media to support growth and demonstrate expected biochemical reactions and morphology is verified by lot. Refer to the CoA for lot-specific information.

Organism	ATCC®	Expected Result
<i>E. coli</i>	25922	Blue
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	13883	Mauve
<i>C. freundii</i>	8090	Mauve
<i>E. cloacae</i>	35030	Mauve
<i>E. aerogenes</i>	13048	Mauve
<i>E. faecalis</i>	29212	Inhibited
<i>S. aureus</i>	25923	Inhibited

# Reading the Results

## Evaluation

Culture Response:

Organism .....	Colony Appearance
<i>E. coli</i> .....	Blue
Other coliforms .....	Mauve
Other bacteria .....	Coloreless or Inhibited

## Limitations

Sensitivity for *E. coli* is 97%.<sup>1</sup>

InTray COLOREX ECC is an agar medium that is susceptible to condensation collection within the inner seal, especially when stored at low temperatures and/or having been exposed to extreme temperature fluctuations. If moisture is visible on the surface of the InTrays, dry them (with the seal removed and InTray label in a position allowing for air flow) under a BSL-2 cabinet just prior to inoculation. There should be no visible droplets of moisture on the surface of the agar when they are inoculated. The surface of the dried medium should be smooth and should not show signs (webbed ribbing pattern on the agar surface) of desiccation.

## References

1. Ogden and Watt 1991; *Lett Appl Microbiol*; 13: 212.

**Symbol glossary:** [biomeddiagnostics.com/l/symbol-glossary](https://biomeddiagnostics.com/l/symbol-glossary)

## Document Revision History

Rev. D, Aug 2025



Removed QR Code for the certificate and product information, updated manufactured by, company address and logo.



Manufactured by:  
Biomed Diagnostics, a DCN Dx brand  
3193 Lionshead Ave., Ste. 200 Carlsbad, CA USA  
[biomeddiagnostics.com](https://biomeddiagnostics.com)



InTray™  
**COLOREX™ ECC**

<b>REF</b>	11-183-001	 5
<b>REF</b>	11-183-002	 20

**For food and water testing.**  
Not for use in diagnostic procedures

