

Environmental Air Sampling

[PDA Air Exposure Plate Recommendations](#)

Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) plates are used to detect airborne yeast and mold when left exposed, with the lid off, to the air for a specified amount of time.

[SMA Air Exposure Plate Recommendations](#)

Standard Methods Agar (SMA) plates are used to detect airborne bacteria/microorganisms when left exposed, with the lid off, to the air for a specified amount of time. An SMA plate generally does not detect yeasts and molds.

[Air Compressor Testing Recommendations](#)

If testing air from an air compressor, it is recommended to expel air directly onto an environmental sponge swab for 15 seconds and test for both Aerobic Plate Count (APC) and Yeast & Mold.

Exposure time and limits for air plates:

The standard amount of exposure time is 15 minutes, but this can be changed to accommodate the facility requirements. Exposure time should be recorded and the count should not exceed more than 1 cfu per minute of exposure. If the plate is exposed for 15 minutes, the acceptable limit is ≤ 15 cfu per plate.