

# Storage and Shelf Life of 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates

## Storage

Original Sealed Foil Pouches	3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates	
Store unopened pouches refrigerated or frozen at temperatures equal to or below 8°C (46°F).	3M™ Petrifilm™ Aqua Coliform Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Environmental <i>Listeria</i> Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ Aqua Heterotrophic Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ High-Sensitivity Coliform Count Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ Aqua Yeast and Mold Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Rapid Coliform Count Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ Aerobic Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Count Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ Coliform Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Disk
	3M™ Petrifilm™ <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Select <i>E. coli</i> Count Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ <i>E. coli</i> /Coliform Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Yeast and Mold Count Plate
Store unopened pouches frozen or refrigerated between -20 to 8°C (-4 to 46°F)	3M™ Petrifilm™ Lactic Acid Bacteria Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Rapid <i>E. coli</i> /Coliform Count Plate
	3M™ Petrifilm™ Rapid Aerobic Count Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ Rapid Yeast and Mold Count Plate
Store unopened pouches refrigerated between 2 to 8°C (36 to 46°F)	3M™ Petrifilm™ <i>Salmonella</i> Express Plate	3M™ Petrifilm™ <i>Salmonella</i> Confirmation Disk

Just prior to use, allow 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates to equilibrate to room temperature. Return unused plates to pouch. To prevent exposure to moisture, do not refrigerate opened pouches. Reseal opened pouches by folding back the open end of the pouch and applying adhesive tape or clipping shut. Store resealed pouches in a cool, dry place ( $\leq 25^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $77^{\circ}\text{F}$ )/ $\leq 50\%$  relative humidity) for no longer than four weeks after opening, and 6 months after opening for 3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Disks. 3M™ Petrifilm™ *Salmonella* Express Plates should be stored in a sealed bag at -20 to 10°C for no longer than 4 weeks after opening. 3M™ Petrifilm™ *Salmonella* Confirmation Disks should be stored in a

cool (20-25°C) dry place (less than 60% RH) for no longer than 4 weeks or placed back in the pouch and put in a re-sealable storage bag and stored at -20 to -10°C for no longer than 5 months.

Opened pouches may also be stored in a freezer. It is recommended that opened pouches of 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates and 3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Disks are stored at frozen temperatures if the laboratory temperature exceeds 25°C (77°F) and/or the laboratory is located in a region where the relative humidity exceeds 50% (with the exception of air-conditioned premises). Store resealed pouches in a sealable container before placing 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates in the freezer.

To remove frozen 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plates for use, open the container, remove only the number of plates that are needed and immediately return remaining plates to the freezer in the sealed container. The freezer used for storing open pouch storage must not have an automatic defrost cycle, as this would repeatedly expose the plates to moisture that can damage the plates.

## Shelf Life

The lot code and expiration date are stamped on the outside of the cardboard box and on the back of each foil pouch. The lot code is printed on each individual plate across the top (hinged edge) of the plate. The lot code appears as 6 to 10 random alphanumeric characters. The expiration date is printed in a YYYY-MM-DD format.

Table 1. Shelf Life of 3M Petrifilm Plates

Product (in original sealed foil pouch)	Shelf Life from Date of Manufacture
3M Petrifilm Aqua Coliform Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Aqua Heterotrophic Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Aqua Yeast and Mold Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Aerobic Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Coliform Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Environmental <i>Listeria</i> Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm High-Sensitivity Coliform Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Lactic Acid Bacteria Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Rapid Aerobic Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Rapid Coliform Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Rapid <i>E. coli</i> /Coliform Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Rapid Yeast and Mold Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Staph Express Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Staph Express Disk	18 months
3M Petrifilm <i>Salmonella</i> Express Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm <i>Salmonella</i> Express Confirmation Disk	30 months
3M Petrifilm Select <i>E. coli</i> Count Plate	18 months
3M Petrifilm Yeast and Mold Count Plate	18 months

\*Please refer to the appropriate 3M Petrifilm Plate product instructions for more information



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