

Streaking a plate

- 1) Remove the lid of your petri plate and using your inoculating loop touch the surface of a colony on the plate.
- 2) Close the first plate.
- 3) Do not touch the inoculating loop to any surface, do not set down the inoculating loop.
- 4) Open a fresh petri plate.
- 5) Gently rub the end of your inoculating loop that you used to touch the colony back and forth over one end of the plate. Be careful not to push down too hard on the loop or you might gouge the agar surface.
- 6) Close the plate and use a flame (from a Bunsen burner or plumbers torch) to sterilize your loop (let it get red hot).
- 7) Holding the loop in your hand allow it to cool for several seconds.
- 8) Turn your plate 90 degrees so that the area you streaked last time is on the left.
- 9) Open the lid of the plate and touch your loop to a sterile region of the plate, if you hear a sizzle the loop is still too hot, wait a second and try again. If you don't hear a sizzle then run your loop once across the area of the plate that you streaked last time. Proceed to rub your loop back and forth over a fresh corner of the plate.
- 10) Repeat steps 6 through 9 until you have streaked all four quadrants on the plate (the figure above shows what your streak pattern should look like).

