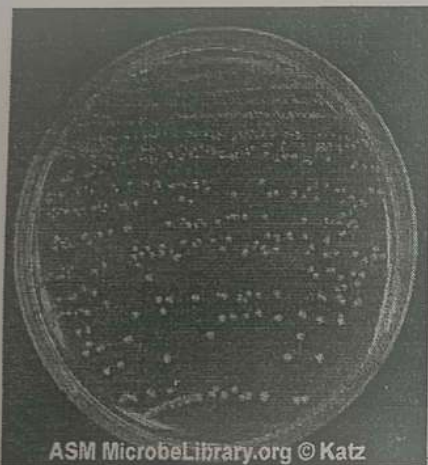


## Streaking of bacterial culture

Streaking is a technique to culture microorganisms where the purpose is to obtain isolated colonies of the microorganism. This technique involves the dilution of bacteria by systematically streaking them over the agar surface in a petri dish.

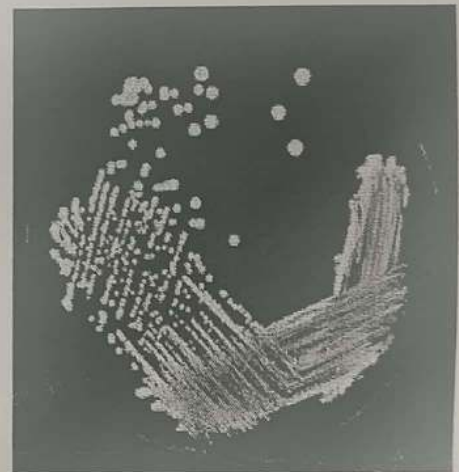
*Procedure:* In a streak plate, dilution is achieved by first spreading the specimen over the agar surface of one sector. If a disposable loop or needle is used to inoculate the first sector, it is discarded into an appropriate container, while reusable loops, usually with nichrome or platinum wire, are flamed to incinerate any organisms on the loop. When cooled, the sterile loop is streaked through the initial sector and organisms are carried into the second sector where they are spread using a zig-zag movement. In a similar manner, the organisms present on the loop are incinerated after the second sector is streaked, and the third sector is streaked. For a four quadrant plate, the process is carried an extra step.



Continuous streak



T-streak



Quadrant streak