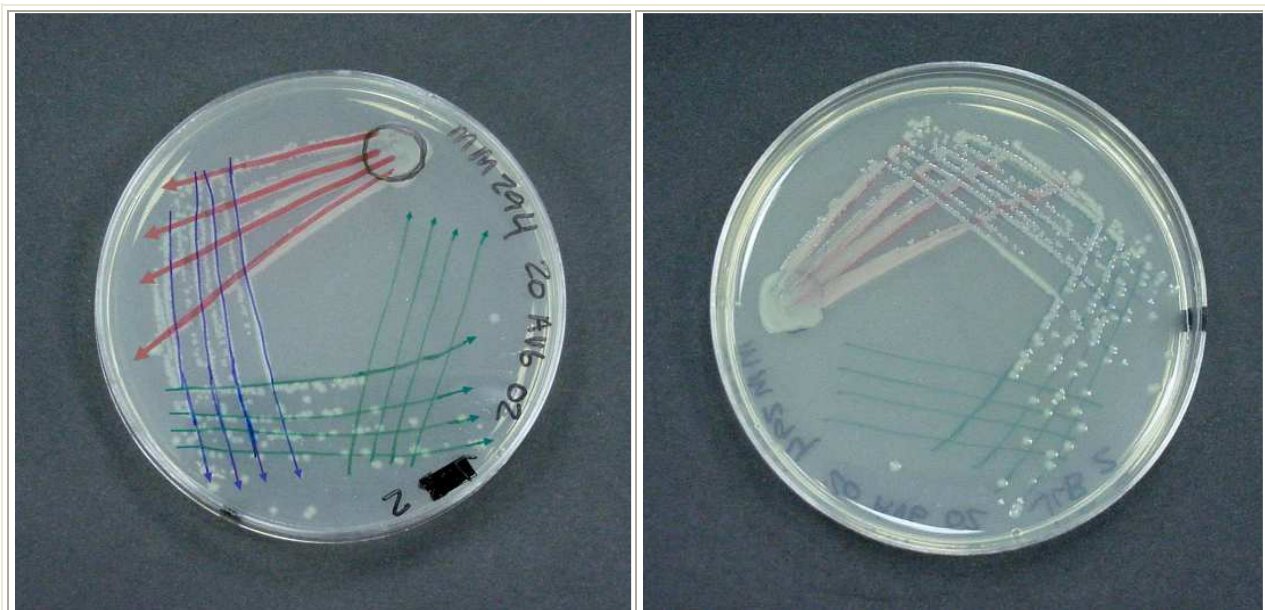


# Streaking a plate for single colonies

Bacteria in liquid culture can be streaked on a plate to obtain individual colonies. It is important for a molecular biologist to work with bacteria that are genetically identical. By streaking for single colonies, one isolated colony will form from a single bacterial cell and thus the colony is genetically identical.

One method is to streak bacteria around the petri plate, working in a circle and diluting the bacterial population as you go. The microbiological loop is either flamed, or a new loop is used, at four steps. These are represented by different colors in the figures below.



#1 = a loopful of bacteria is obtained from a resuspended liquid culture, and a dime to penny sized circle is made on the plate (BLACK).

#2 - a second loop is used to make four lines moving out from the circle (RED).

#3 - a third loop is used to make four more lines which overlap the first four (BLUE).

#4 - a fourth loop is used to make four more lines which overlap the second four (GREEN).

NOTE that the *same* loop is used to make the final four lines (GREEN).

On this plate, many isolated colonies are seen on the third set of streaks.

<http://delliss.people.cofc.edu/virtuallabbook/StreakPlates/GoodStreak.html>