

# Surface hygiene of indoor swimming pools

Hygicult

A reliable and proven method for controlling surface hygiene

There are strict hygiene requirements for indoor swimming pools and other wet areas. An essential part of in-house cleaning is systematic measurement of surface hygiene. This way, the users of the premises are guaranteed safe and healthy conditions as well as comfort. In addition to potential health risks, microbes increase the risk of mould and decay problems in structures. Good surface hygiene has a significant impact on swimming pool water hygiene as well. A reliable and proven method for controlling surface hygiene is Aidian's Hygicult® contact slides.

## Sampling

The number of surface hygiene samples must be sufficiently high to prevent incidental factors from distorting the result. When monitoring the level of cleaning, samples are repeatedly taken from the same locations. The most common sampling locations include the following:

- Passages
- Areas around floor drains
- Places where water stagnates
- Doors, railings, door handles and taps
- Shower seats, etc.
- Toilet seat lids, toilet seats, flush knobs, flush buttons
- Cleaning machines and tools
- Incubation

Hygicult contact slides are incubated at room temperature for three days. The result can be obtained within one day by culturing the contact slides in an incubator (Cultura M) at +35 – 37 °C. Please see the kit insert for further information.

## Interpretation of results

The reference point for deciding if action is needed is 100 CFU/test side<sup>1</sup>. Microbiological tests provide information on the actual microbiological situation, i.e., living bacteria. The tests can be stored at room temperature. There is no need for cold storage. The tests can be disposed of by

immersing them in a disinfectant. Their shelf life is about five months from manufacture, which is longer than with most microbiological methods.



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## Reference

1. Hygiene Guide for Indoor Swimming Pools and Wet Premises, Suomen Ympäristö- ja Terveystieteiden Kustannus Oy 2010.