

# Etest Storage Containers

## General

- Always store unused strips in air-tight containers e.g. storage tubes with silica gel.
- Ensure the desiccant is blue during storage and before use. Reactivate when it turns light blue to white.
- Store container at -20 C and always allow it to reach room temperature before opening (approx. 30 minutes). If stored at -70 C, allow 1 hour to equilibrate to room temperature.
- When stored properly and kept dry, unused strips have the same expiry date as the original package.

## Storage tube (Figure 1)

- To reactivate the desiccant gel, remove the cap, replace the styrofoam with a plug of cottonwool and heat the tube to 160 C for one hour. Cool the tube, replace the cap and store in a dry place.
- Mark the storage tube with the label from the blister pack, showing the expiry date, batch number and antibiotic code.
- If stored at -70 C, leave the tubes in the styrofoam outer packaging to prevent the caps from popping out of the tubes.
- Store only one type of antibiotic strip per tube.

## Storage container (Figure 2)

- Tape over the opening of the blister pocket containing the unused Etest strip
- Label the blister with the batch number and expiry date.
- Place the blister pocket into the storage container.
- Screw the cap on tightly.
- To reactivate the desiccant, heat the capsule at 60 C for approx. 5 hours, until blue.

## Other containers (Figure 3)

- Home-made storage tubes must use silica gel and be air tight.
- Applicator trays with strips must be stored in air tight containers e.g. Tupperware<sup>®</sup> box with silica gel.

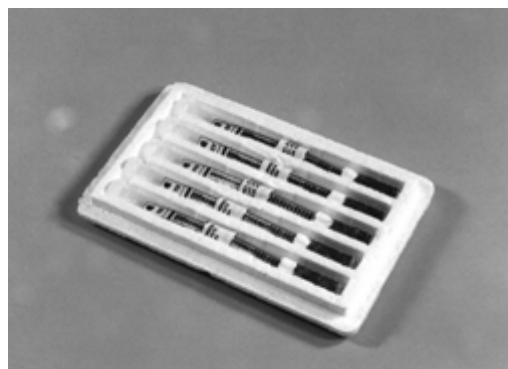


Figure 1. Storage tubes (Article No. 5100 6000)



Figure 2. Storage Container (Article No. M0000163)



Figure 3. Other forms of storage devices