Protocol

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DEPC-Treatment of Water

Introduction

Many experimental procedures in biological research require the use of RNase-free water to prevent the degradation of RNA. RNase-free water is generated when distilled water is treated with diethylpryrocarbonate (DEPC), which efficiently inhibits RNases by covalent modification. Here we describe a general procedure to treat water with DEPC.

Materials

- DEPC (GoldBio Catalog # D-340)
- dH_2O
- Glass container

Method

1. Add 100 µl of DEPC to 100 ml dH_2O for a final concentration of 0.1% DEPC in a glass container.

2. Mix well and let set at room temperature for 1 hour.

3. Autoclave the solution for 15-45 minutes at 15 psi (to degrade DEPC).

4. Allow the solution to cool at room temperature.

5. DEPC-treated water can be stored at room temperature until further use.

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