



Glossary

Antimicrobial activity: Antimicrobials refer to any substance that hinders the growth of microorganisms.

Contamination: Contamination is the presence of an unwanted constituent, contaminant or impurity in a material, physical body, natural environment, workplace, etc.

Fungal spoilage: The damage caused to the food stuff by fungal species.

Susceptibility: The state of being easily affected or susceptible.

Psychrotrophic bacteria: Psychrotrophic bacteria are bacteria that are capable of surviving or even thriving in extremely cold environment. They provide an estimation of the product's shelf life, also they can be found in soils, in surface and deep sea waters, in Antarctic ecosystems, and in foods.

Gram-negative: Gram-negative bacteria lose the crystal violet stain (and take the color of the red counterstain) in Gram's method of staining. This is characteristic of bacteria that have a cell wall composed of a thin layer of a particular substance (called peptidoglycan).

Gram-positive bacteria: Bacteria that give a positive result in the Gram stain test. Gram-positive bacteria take up the crystal violet stain used in the test, and then appear to be purple-coloured when seen through a microscope. This is because the thick peptidoglycan layer in the bacterial cell wall retains the stain after it is washed away from the rest of the sample, in the decolorization stage of the test.

Enterotoxin: An enterotoxin is a protein exotoxin released by a microorganism that targets the intestines.

Mesophile: A mesophile is an organism that grows best in moderate temperature, neither too hot nor too cold, typically between 20 and 45 °C (68 and 113 °F). The term is mainly applied to microorganisms.

Proteolysis: Proteolysis is the breakdown of proteins into smaller polypeptides or amino acids. Uncatalysed, the hydrolysis of peptide bonds is extremely slow, taking hundreds of years. Proteolysis is typically catalysed by cellular enzymes called proteases, but may also occur by intra-molecular digestion.