



Cellular reagents
lyophilized in 1X PBS
containing 0.1M trehalose

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S4 Fig. Assessment of bacterial viability in cellular reagents. BL21 *E. coli* expressing Taq DNA polymerase were lyophilized in either 1X PBS or in 1X PBS supplemented with 0.1M trehalose. After 3 days of storage at ambient temperature, the lyophilized cellular reagents were rehydrated in 30 μ L water and half of the material was spread plated on Luria Bertani agar plates. Images of these plates were taken after overnight incubation at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. Only bacteria that were lyophilized in the presence of trehalose retained viability. Cellular reagents lyophilized without trehalose do not remain viable.