



# Formaldehyde:

## Disposal Methods at UIC

### Overview

Formaldehyde is typically used at UIC to fix and preserve tissue. Formalin is the commercial name given to a formaldehyde solution. Formaldehyde can also be referred to as paraformaldehyde and metaformaldehyde. UIC does not allow formaldehyde to be disposed of via the drain, nor does UIC accept formaldehyde solutions as a hazardous waste. Therefore, all formaldehyde solutions must be neutralized, **rendering all components non-hazardous**, before drain disposal.

The following is information for two specific neutralizing agents. However, know that there are many products from other manufacturers that neutralize formaldehyde solutions, such as [Tissue-Tek® NEUTRALEX®](#). The kits below is recommended to use for solutions containing 10% or less formaldehyde. If you have a more concentrated solution, such as a 37% formaldehyde, please dilute it to a 10% solution using 9 parts water to 1 part of the 37% formaldehyde solution.

### Comparing Formaldehyde Neutralizing Agents

*Which type fits your needs?*

	Formalex	Neutralex
<b>Manufacturer</b>	American BioSafety	Scigen
<b>Distributor</b>	American BioSafety	Fisher Scientific
<b>Neutralizing Agent Type</b>	Liquid	Solid
<b>Amount to neutralize 1 gallon of 10% formaldehyde</b>	0.25 gallons (appx 945mL)	1 pouch (0.75kg)
<b>Cost per unit</b>	\$35 / 1 gallon \$70 / 2.5 gallons \$125/ 5 gallons	\$128.22 / 16 pouches
<b>Cost to neutralize 1 gallon of 10% formaldehyde</b>	\$8.75 (if using the 1-gallon cube) \$7.00 (if using the 2.5 gallon cube) \$6.25 (if using 5-gallon cube)	\$8.01

# Ordering Information

Company Name	Phone/ Fax	Email/ website
<b>American Biosafety, Inc</b> (available in iBuy)	P: (800) 624-8021 F: (916) 652-8020	URSAFE@AmericanBioSafety.com <a href="http://www.americanbiosafety.com">http://www.americanbiosafety.com</a>
Product Number	Description	
<b>FXG-XX</b>	Formalex® GREEN Liquid Control Agent	
<b>FTK-01P</b>	Replacement - Aldehyde Reagent Powder Test Packet (100 packets/Box)	
<b>FTK-01T</b>	Replacement - Color Indicator Solution for Aldehyde Testing (15-ml bottle)	



There are many sizes of Formalex: 1 gal (product # FXG-01) *pictured left*, 2.5 gal (product # FXG-250) *pictured right*, 5 gal (product # FXG-05). Call American Biosafety if you need help determining the correct size for your lab. See the website for complete ordering information at [http://www.americanbiosafety.com/PDF/ABS\\_Catalog.pdf](http://www.americanbiosafety.com/PDF/ABS_Catalog.pdf)



*Formalex Kit*. Note that most laboratories already have these items. It is also possible to test the neutralized product with your pH meter. Please check your inventory before purchasing extraneous equipment.

Company Name	Phone/ Fax	website
<b>Fisher Scientific</b>	P: (800) 766-7000 F: (800) 926-1166	<a href="https://www.fishersci.com">https://www.fishersci.com</a>
Product Number	Description	
<b>23-730-561</b>	Scigen Neutralex*; 16 Pouches	
<b>23-730-564</b>	Scigen Neutralex*; Formalin Test Kit	



*Neutralex Pouch*. Neutralex is also available in as a 25kg pail that can neutralize 150 L of formaldehyde



*Neutralex Formalin Test Kit*. Note it is possible to test the neutralized product with your pH meter. Please check your inventory before purchasing extraneous equipment.