

Please Note

To ensure quality histopathology results during cold weather it is advised to either:
1) fix tissues completely in 10% neutral buffered formalin for at least 24 hours before mailing or 2) send the tissue in alcoholic formalin. Please avoid mailing the sample over the weekend if unable to comply with the aforementioned. Thank you for your cooperation, one can't reverse the effects of inadequately fixed tissues.

Alcoholic Formalin

Formaldehyde, 37-40%	100 mL
Ethyl Alcohol, Absolute	650 mL
Distilled Water	250 mL

Alcoholic Formalin

Ethanol, 95%	2800 mL
Distilled Water	620 mL
Formaldehyde, 37%	380 mL
Calcium Acetate	0.5 grams

- a) combine liquids, add and dissolve calcium acetate
- b) label with date of preparation and contents
- c) store at room temperature for up to 2 months

The Veterinary Histopathology Laboratory uses and prefers a commercial formalin concentrate (1 part concentrate to 7 parts water), but...

10% Neutral Buffered Formalin

Sodium phosphate monobasic, monohydrate	80 grams
Sodium phosphate dibasic, anhydrous	130 grams
Type I water	1.8 L stock, additional for working
Formaldehyde, 37%	2.0 L

To prepare concentrate stock:

- a) place salts in gallon container
- b) add Type I water
- c) dissolve salts by shaking or stirring, if time permits place in 60 C oven
- d) once salts are in solution, store at room temperature

To prepare working solution, 10% neutral buffered formalin:

- a) pour stock formalin concentrate into carboy
- b) add 2 L of concentrated formaldehyde
- c) fill carboy to 20 L mark with deionized water
- d) label with date of preparation and contents
- e) expires in 6 months