

Fixation

All human and non-human primate materials must be fixed or run on a dedicated BSL-2 instrument (EHS Schedule F required).

There are a number of fixation protocols, depending on cell types. We recommend using 1% Formalin (final concentration), EM Grade Formalin from Ted Pella (#18505, which comes in 10x10 mL ampules of 16% Formalin).

Cells should be re-suspended in PBS prior to fixation to prevent fixing cells to each other. Gently swirl or vortex cell suspension while adding an equal volume of 2% Formalin in a drop wise fashion.

Note: Purchasing formalin in solution reduces lab worker exposure to fumes that occur when preparing paraformaldehyde. You can dilute the 16% Formalin in PBS and keep it in the refrigerator in a capped tube for several weeks without losing activity.

For an explanation of the differences between Paraformaldehyde, Formalin and Formaldehyde, refer to this [Technical Note from Pelco](#).