



Suggested Sources for Pre-Filled Formalin Jars

When formalin is used in bulk quantities and poured into smaller containers, there is a significant chance of exposure to this chemical above the permissible exposure limit (PEL.) Since formalin is listed as a human carcinogen, special care must be taken to avoid undue or hazardous exposure. OSHA's Formaldehyde Standard requires some very specific procedures for the veterinary practice, including monitoring of employee exposure and possibly respiratory protection plans. There is a provision of the Standard that exempts the employer from those testing and emergency procedures rules if the formaldehyde use in the workplace could not possibly expose employees above the PEL. If the practice procures formalin in extremely small quantities (e.g., enough pre-filled individual biopsy jars necessary for a month's operation), then there would be very limited potential of exposure from vapors or accidental spills and this "exemption" could apply. If the material is stored and used in an area with good general ventilation, then there normally wouldn't be a need for additional fume hoods or personal protective equipment.

Specimen containers pre-filled with formalin come in all shapes and sizes, so there is one to fit the needs of almost any practice. Many commercial diagnostic labs will provide these containers at no additional cost to the practice for using their service, so be sure to ask your lab before you buy them. Also, be sure to check with your regular distributor of medical supplies.

If your lab does not provide the pre-filled containers or if you need other sizes, here are a few sources we've found:



SciGen (www.scigenus.com) (310) 324-6576

- 2 oz jars FV-1060
- Other sizes available

Fisher Healthcare (Biochemical Sciences) (www.fishersci.com) (800) 524-0294

- 20 ml capacity jars Item # 23-032059 Approx \$60/box 100
- 40 ml capacity jars Item # 23-316154 Approx \$125/box 150
- 60 ml capacity jars Item # 23-316155 Approx \$43/box 75
- 90 ml capacity jars Item # 23-316156 Approx \$36/box 75
- 120 ml capacity jars Item # 23-032060 Approx \$35/box 50

Hydrol Chemical (www.hydrolchemical.com) (800) 345-8200

- Various sizes available

Laboratory Supply Co

Louisville, KY

- 60 ml capacity jars Item # 415-02
- 120 ml capacity jars Item # 415-4

E-K Industries (815) 723-4000

Joliet, IL

- 30 ml capacity jars Item # 4499

StatLab Medical Products

800/442-3573

Richard-Allan Scientific

225 Parsons St

Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3538

800/522-7270

- 15 ml jar - Item #53151
- 120 ml jar -Item #531201
- 480 ml jar - Item # 534801



Alternatives to Formalin/Formaldehyde

Available from **Amresco** (www.amresco-inc.com) (800) 366-1313

- HistoChoice™ Molecular Biology (MB) Fixative is a safe, convenient solution for tissue fixation. HistoChoice™ MB Fixative improves delivery because it is safe to use and is gentle on tissues and the environment. Tissues fixed in HistoChoice™ MB exhibit vibrant staining, better nuclear and cytoplasmic detail, and will retain a crisp appearance even after long-term fixation. HistoChoice™ MB fixed tissue retains a softer more natural look & feel than formalin fixed tissue for easier, smoother cutting & sectioning and clearer identification.