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Formaldehyde-Free Products****Product & Manufacturer****Histo-Fix**

Trend Scientific, Inc
(Division of Richard-Allan)
800-522-7270

Comments

- Formalin-free fixative; aqueous mixture of pyrrolid-2-one, polyol, urea, and a zinc salt
- Contains no mercury, though zinc may have environmental considerations

Product & Manufacturer**Mirsky's Fixative**

National Diagnostics
404-699-2121
<http://www.nationaldiagnostics.com>

Comments

- Formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde free fixative composed of aldehydes
- Need to purchase and combine fixative and buffer

Product & Manufacturer**Prefer**

Anatech Ltd.
800-ANATECH
<http://www.anatechltdusa.com>

Comments

- Formalin-free fixative; active ingredient is glyoxal (a di-aldehyde) in water and ethanol
- Drain disposal may be possible

Product & Manufacturer**Shandon Glyo-Fixx™**

Thermo Electron
(Acquired Shandon, Inc)

Comments

- Formalin-free fixative; active ingredient is glyoxal (a di-aldehyde) in ethanol, methanol, and acetic acid

800-245-6212

<http://www.thermo.com/>

- Drain disposal may be possible

Product & Manufacturer**Comments****Uni-Fix(TM)**

BBC Biochemical

800-635-4477

<http://www.bbcus.com>

- Formalin-free fixative; active ingredient is glyoxal (a di-aldehyde). It is a substitute for 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin
- Drain disposal may be possible

[« Top of page »](#)**Category/Subcategory****Laboratory Chemicals and Equipment****Mercury-Free Products**

Kaiser Permanente, America's largest not-for-profit health maintenance organization, estimates that based on the percentage of mercuric chloride in average volumes of solution, their change to Z-5 and other mercury-free solutions translates to roughly 10 pounds of soluble mercury eliminated in California each year. While all mercury-based waste was collected for recycling and appropriate disposal, eliminating its use ensures that any possibility of release to the environment is removed.

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[« Top of page »](#)**Category/Subcategory****Laboratory Chemicals and Equipment****Solvent Recovery Equipment**

Dr. Russell Mankes, Associate Professor of the Albany Medical Center points out that Formaldehyde is an EPA regulated hazardous waste (RCRA-U122) if it is in the original container or is not spent. Waste from tissue processors or spent fixative may not be RCRA regulated, but in most areas cannot be discharged to sewers as it adversely affects the bacterial sewage treatment. Besides, Dr. Mankes asks, why would you want to pour money down the drain? Formaldehyde for fixation of tissues is expensive. The Albany Medical College has been recycling formalin since 1995. Between 1995 and 2004, they recycled ~40,000 pounds of formaldehyde

waste in one 5 gallon capacity recycling unit. The original equipment cost of ~\$10,000 resulted in avoiding \$185,000 in disposal costs and \$142,000 in chemical purchase costs. Even for a small hospital, this is economically beneficial.

Thanks to Dr. Mankes for sharing this information

Product & Manufacturer

Comments

CMT Solvent Distillation Systems

CMT Environmental Services, Inc.
800-749-1008

<http://cmt-enviro-serv.com>

- Solvent distillation systems for hospital labs
- Recycling of xylene, alcohol, formalin

Product & Manufacturer

Comments

Creative Waste Solutions Solvent Filters

Creative Waste Solutions, Inc
888-795-8300

<http://www.cwsincorp.com>

- Recycling systems for alcohol, xylene and formalin save money and time on purchasing and disposal of solvents
- Alcohol recycling stem uses a gravity filtration process to remove stains, dyes and cellular debris from alcohol
- Xylene recycling pads remove stain, alcohol and water from processed xylene. Available for any size or type of stain line
- Formalin recycling system uses gravity filtration to remove stains, dyes, and cellular debris from processed formalin

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Category

Recycling Equipment

Product & Manufacturer

Comments

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Note: Information has been provided by the named vendors. The Sustainable Hospitals Project does not endorse any products or take responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for product performance. Contact vendors directly to purchase a product or to obtain more information. This table is a work-in-progress, and feedback may be sent by email to shp@uml.edu or by phone to 978-934-3386.

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