



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
AND SAFETY**

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**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET**  
**Formalin Disposal**

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**Purpose**

To provide a safe method for the deactivation and disposal of used formalin. Formalin containers must not be disposed of in red bag (biohazard) waste.

**Supplies**

- Lab coat/gown
- Chemical goggles
- Chemically resistant gloves
- Aldex, available through eSHOP
- Tissue strainer

**Precautions**

Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. Consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for more information.

**Procedure**

1. Decant the formalin from any tissue that may be in it. The tissues must be disposed of in red bag (biohazard) waste.
2. Add 8 ounces of Aldex to 1 gallon formalin solution to be deactivated (2 ounces of Aldex will treat one quart of formalin).
3. Allow mixture to sit overnight (minimum of 8 hours) for completion of deactivation.
4. Properly dispose deactivated solutions to the sanitary sewer system (lab sink). Run water during disposal and for several minutes after. Ensure that no more than 5 gallons of deactivated solution is disposed per lab per day.
5. Empty formalin containers can be thoroughly rinsed, defaced, and thrown in the general trash.

This procedure can also be used for other dilute used aldehyde solutions. Unwanted, full strength solutions should be labeled, stored in secondary containment and tagged for disposal by Environmental Health and Safety.

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Email [unmcehs@unmc.edu](mailto:unmcehs@unmc.edu) with any questions