

Mercury-containing Chemicals Cheat Sheet

The first column lists the chemical and/or the product name. The second column notes any specific brands associated with higher mercury levels or notes about the product. The third column list the mercury concentration if known.

Chemical/Product Name	Brand Associated/Notes	Mercury Concentration
Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach)	Any except Austin's A-1 and Fisher Scientific	Parts per million levels
Alconox	Liquinox is fine	0.07 ppm undiluted
Soft Cide soap		8.1 ppb
Cidex		1 ppm
UniSolve		25 ppm
Kindest Kare	Calgon	28 ppb
Spitfire Power Cleaner	SC Johnson	11 ppb
Zenker's solution	Contains mercury(II) chloride	
B-5 Fixative	Contains mercury (II) chloride	
Hematoxylin	Can be manufactured with or without Hg	
10% Buffered Formalin		407 ppm
Thimerosol	Ingredient in many other products	
Phenol reagent	Beckman	702 ppm
Starch solutions	EMD Chemicals	10-50 ppm
Protein conjugates (in solution)	Preservatives are usually Hg-containing	
Spectroscopy reference solutions		
Pepsin reconstitution buffers		
Nessler's reagent for NH ₃		
Assay kits	Abbott immunoassay and BD	

	Diagnostic in-vitro, Syva Emit drug assay buffer	
Color reagents for chloride		
Antigens		
TB Auramine	Beckmann	9 ppb
Clinical diagnostic chemicals	Abbott	
Trypsin	Sigma	10 ppb
DAB Tris buffer	Bio Genex Labs	
Alician Blue Stain	EM Science	61 ppb
Malachite Green Base	Sigma	11 ppb
Trichrome blue stain	Poly Scientific	7 ppb
DNA Extraction Buffer #3	Qiagen	10 ppb
QBT Equilibrium Buffer	Qiagen	14 ppb
Acids and Bses	Reagent grade should be fine-check your COA	
pH storage buffer	Orion	45 ppb
Sodium thiosulfate	Sigma	63 ppb

Please note:

Check with your specific vendor and request a certificate of analysis (COA) for anything about which you are unsure.

This is not a static list. Manufacturers will change formulations over time. Please share new information you gather with colleagues to help us all stay on top of this issue.