

Picric Acid Informational Memo

NEWCOMER SUPPLY PRODUCTS CONTAINING PICRIC ACID:

Bouin Fluid	Part 1020
Bouin Fluid Vial	Part 10201
Hollande Fixative	Part 1208
Hollande Fixative Vial	Part 12082
Picric Acid-Acetone 0.1%	Part 1335
Picric Acid-Acetone 0.05%	Part 13351
Picric Acid, Saturated Aqueous	Part 1336
Picric Acid, Saturated Alcoholic	Part 1337
Van Gieson Stain	Part 1404
Zamboni Fixative	Part 1459
Elastic, Verhoeff Stain Kit (Soln E)	Part 9116
Gram, Brown-Brenn Modified Stain Kit (Soln E)	Part 9123
Gram, Brown-Hopps Stain Kit (Soln E)	Part 9124
Trichrome, Gomori One-Step, Fast Green Stain Kit (Soln A)	Part 9175
Trichrome, Gomori One-Step, Aniline Blue Stain Kit (Soln A)	Part 9176
Trichrome, Masson, Aniline Blue Stain Kit (Soln A)	Part 9179
Trichrome, Masson, Fast Green Stain Kit (Soln A)	Part 9180

APPLICATION:

Picric Acid, also known as 2,4,6-Trinitrophenol, Carbazotic Acid, Phenol Trinitrate and Picronic Acid, is used in tissue fixative solutions and is a component of several special stain procedures.

Picric Acid can be safely handled when hydrated and maintained and stored in at least a 30% aqueous solution. A potential explosion hazard occurs with Picric Acid when the chemical is in a dehydrated or dry form, when it is heated or in contact with metals or metallic salts.

1. Avoid disposing Picric Acid solutions down the drain or sanitary sewer.
2. Collect Picric Acid waste solutions in an appropriate and specifically labeled leak-proof container for proper disposal.
 - a. *Do not use metal containers or containers with a metal cap or lid.*
3. Thoroughly wash all Picric Acid fixed tissues (Bouin Fluid and Hollande Fixative) before placing on a tissue processor to avoid any residual Picric Acid entering the processing system.
 - a. *Extended washing of tissue in running tap water followed by washes in 70% ethyl alcohol is recommended.*

Picric Acid is considered a toxic health hazard and all personal protection precautions should be implemented when handling. Safety risks associated with Picric Acid are outlined in the SDS and should be evaluated by the user. Dispose of Picric Acid solutions in a safe manner to comply with local, state and federal regulations.

REFERENCES:

1. Dapson, Janet Crookham, and Richard Dapson. *Hazardous Materials in the Histopathology Laboratory: Regulations, Risks, Handling, and Disposal*. 4th ed. Battle Creek, MI: Anatech, 2005. 265-266.
2. <https://www.ehs.wisc.edu/chem/SafeHandlingOfPicricAcid.pdf>
3. <http://nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/documents/fs/1946.pdf>