

Protocol for Cross – Linking Cells v4.0

Prior to Cross Linking

1. Prepare 4°C PBS with protease inhibitors, pre chill centrifuges and label tubes

Collecting Cells

1. For adherent cells, wash x 1 with PBS then trypsinize and collect cells in 50 ml conical tubes w complete media (the serum in the media will inactivate the trypsin) or PBS.
2. For cells in suspension, pipet cells and collect in appropriate vol. tube.
3. Centrifuge 5', RT, 1500 – 3000 rpm (300xg).
4. Re-suspend cells in a convenient volume of unsupplemented media or protein free PBS and count cell number. Note: the volume at this stage is optional and scaled to the number of cells you are working with. Typical volumes are between 1 and 45 mL, as detailed in the table below.
5. Optional: Remove 5 – 20 x 10⁶ cells to snap-freeze (without fixation) for RNA and DNA extraction. Aliquot into tubes containing ~ 5e6 cells each. Snap Freeze.

Cross Linking in Fume Hood

NOTE: change incubation temperatures accordingly

6. Cross-link by adding 16% methanol free formaldehyde (important: single use ampoule; see part number below) to the cell suspension to a final conc. of 1% formaldehyde (see table for volumes). Once tube is sealed, it is safe to handle outside the fume hood.
7. Incubate at 37°C [manual agitation of cells in water bath, or using a rotating oven] for 10'

uL of 16% Formaldehyde	Cell Suspension Vol.
63 uL	1.00 mL
250 uL	4.00 mL
625 uL	10.00 mL
938 uL	15.00 mL

Quench Cross Linking Reaction

NOTE: change incubation temperatures accordingly

8. In fume hood, add fresh 2.5M glycine to a final conc. of 125mM (see table for volumes)
9. Incubate at 37°C for 5' [manual agitation in water bath, or rotating], then immediately place tubes on ice

uL of 2.5 M Glycine	Cell Suspension Vol. including Formaldehyde
53 uL	1.063 mL
213 uL	4.250 mL
531 uL	10.625 mL
797 uL	15.938 mL

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Rinsing and Aliquoting Cells

10. Pellet cells 4°C for 5' @ 1500 – 3000 rpm and remove supt in fume hood.
11. Wash cells 2x with 1 vol. 4°C PBS (w/ protease inhibitor)*
12. Spin each time at 4°C for 5' @ 1500 – 3000 rpm
13. Remove as much sup as possible in fume hood.
14. Re-suspend cells in limited volume (1ml for each 1×10^6 - 1×10^7 cells) of 4°C PBS* and transfer to 1.5 ml DNA low binding eppendorf tubes that have been pre chilled and labeled.
 - a. Scale the number of cells per aliquot based on the intended use of the materials. If you anticipate a ChIP protocol with an antibody to a transcription factor, then 10^7 cells per aliquot is appropriate, since such ChIPs tend to require more cells.
15. Spin tubes 4°C , 3.5' ~ 4k and remove as much supt as possible
16. Snap freeze pellets and store at -80°C until use

Items	Company	Cat#
[optional] Hybridization Oven (model 5430)	VWR	47746-130
Protease Inhibitor Cocktail- EDTA free	Roche	04693132001
Protease Inhibitor Cocktail mini-EDTA free	Roche	04693159001
16% Formaldehyde methanol free 10 x 1ml vials	Pierce/ Thermo	28906

NOTE: Experiment including liquid and solid waste needs to be contained in the fume hood