

Properties of an Ideal Fixative

- Prevents autolysis and bacterial decomposition.
- Preserves tissue in their natural state and fix all components.
- Make the cellular components insoluble to reagent used in tissue processing.
- Preserves tissue volume.

- Avoid excessive hardness of tissue.
- Allows enhanced staining of tissue.
- Should be non-toxic and non-allergic for user.
- Should not be very expensive.

Mechanism / Action of Fixatives

- Most fixatives act by denaturing or precipitating proteins which then form a sponge or meshwork, tending to hold the other constituents