

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR: SPERMFREEZE™

FAQ1: Do I need to add egg-yolk to SpermFreeze before use ?

No you don't !

SpermFreeze is a ready to use freezing medium which doesn't require any additives. Just follow the instructions and the sperm sample will be safely frozen and thawed.

FAQ2: Does SpermFreeze contain antibiotics ?

No, SpermFreeze does not include any antibiotics.

If you feel that antibiotics are need, we suggest to add 10mg/liter of pharmaceutical grade gentamicin to the product.

FAQ3: Can I use SpermFreeze for TESE ?

Yes you can, you don't have to add anything it's as easy as using SpermFreeze with ejaculated sperm.

FAQ4: How long can I keep sperm in a frozen state ?

Once frozen at -196°C, sperm can be kept for 10 to 20 years (possibly even longer). The fertilising potential can be diminished after a long period of freezing. The critical part in the freezing process is the actual freezing itself, this is where the damage is done to the cells. SpermFreeze was especially designed to avoid damage during freezing, it is advisable however to test-freeze a semen sample. If viability and motility are dramatically decreased, try a programmed freezing protocol.

FAQ5: Do I need to wash thawed samples before use ?

We strongly suggest washing the sperm sample after thawing to remove the glycerol from the medium.

FAQ6: We have noted that after thawing the tails of the spermatozoa are curled. Is this normal ?

No this is not normal. Curling of the tail occurs because of osmotic shock at the time SpermFreeze is added to the semen sample.

To avoid this you have to add the SpermFreeze medium slowly and dropwise, while swirling the container that holds the semen sample. This way the spermatozoa have ample time to adjust to the new osmotic equilibrium.

FAQ7: What survival rates should we expect after freezing/thawing ?

The number of spermcells surviving a freezing procedure can vary significantly between samples.

Analyses on freezing/thawing donor samples however has shown average survival rates of between 65-70%. ("Survival" has been defined as the number of motile spermcells after thawing compared to the number of motile spermcells before freezing.)

FAQ8: How long can I use SpermFreeze after opening the bottle?

2 factors limit the shelf life of a product after opening the bottle:

- Gass exchange: influences the pH
- Contamination with viable organisms

We have performed open bottle tests on our media for up to 7 days and found that the product parameters stayed within the specifications in this time period, taking into consideration that the bottle was opened under sterile conditions and the product was stored at 2-8°C after opening.