

### Antibody Storage

Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles. Antibodies can be adversely effected by freeze/thaw cycles. It is usually preferable to store antibodies for a few days at 4° C rather than expose them to multiple freeze/thaw cycles. DO NOT STORE ANTIBODIES IN FROST-FREE FREEZERS. These units subject the freezer compartment to regular freeze/thaw cycles to eliminate the frost on the sides of the freezer. At the same time, your antibodies (especially small aliquots - see below) are undergoing numerous freeze/thaw cycles.

Lyophilized products are stable at ambient temperature for the short term and may be shipped without ice packs. Upon receipt and reconstitution, we suggest storage at -20° C.

Rather than repeatedly thawing and re-freezing the original unit, scientists should consider dividing all or part of the unit into multiple vials. It should not just be divided into tiny (5-10 ul) aliquots as antibody can adsorb to the sides of the vials. Instead, the researcher can do an initial dilution such as 1:2 to 1:20 with a solution containing other proteins. The additional proteins act to stabilize the antibody solution. [For example, the HSP70 antibodies are diluted in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with 5 mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA) or 5% non-fat dried milk. Before diluting the antibody for storage, however, the diluent should be sterile filtered to retard microbial growth.

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