

## Avoid microbial growth in HPLC mobile phases - How to

### **Bacteria can be a problem in the case of aqueous mobile phase solvents.**

If present, they can create problems for an instrument's operation. There are a few things you can do to avoid their formation in your mobile phase. One is to add an acid such as 0.1% formic acid. Many HPLC methods may use an acidified mobile phase anyway, so this just another advantage.

Another technique is to use a small percent of organic solvent in the aqueous solvent. The presence of an organic solvent like acetonitrile will inhibit bacterial growth.

If your aqueous solvent requires a near neutral pH buffer, store a concentrated stock solution in the refrigerator and prepare fresh dilutions to use as your mobile phase solvent as needed. Then when you need to change this solution for a new one, be sure to completely switch them out and don't simply add the new one to the old one, in order to prevent cross-contamination.



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**MicroSolv Technology Corporation**

9158 Industrial Blvd. NE, Leland, NC 28451

tel. (732) 380-8900, fax (910) 769-9435

Email: [customers@mtc-usa.com](mailto:customers@mtc-usa.com)

Website: [www.mtc-usa.com](http://www.mtc-usa.com)

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