

What's in Vaccines?

Today's vaccines use only the ingredients they need to be as safe and effective as possible.

Each ingredient in a vaccine serves a specific purpose:

- provide immunity (protection)
- keep the vaccine safe and long lasting
- for the production of the vaccine

Vaccine Ingredients.

Type of Ingredient	Example(s)	Purpose	Most common source found...
Preservatives	Thimerosal (only in multi-dose vials of flu vaccine)*	To prevent contamination	From eating foods such as certain kinds of fish, mercury (which thimerosal contains) gets into the body
Adjuvants	Aluminum salts	To help boost the body's response to the vaccine	From drinking water, infant formula, or use of health products such as antacids, buffered aspirin, and antiperspirants
Stabilizers	Sugars, gelatin	To keep the vaccine effective after manufactured.	From eating food such as <i>Jell-O</i> [®] and resides in body naturally
Residual cell culture materials	Egg protein [^]	To grow enough of the virus or bacteria to make the vaccine	From eating foods containing eggs
Residual inactivating ingredients	Formaldehyde [†]	To kill viruses or inactivate toxins during the manufacturing process	Resides in body naturally (more in body than vaccines). Also found automobile exhaust, and household furnishing such as carpets and upholstery.
Residual antibiotics	Neomycin	To prevent contamination by bacteria during the vaccine manufacturing process	Antibiotics that people are most likely to be allergic to — like penicillin — aren't used in vaccines

Bron: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/additives.htm>