PRODUCT INFORMATION

VECTASHIELD® Antifade Mounting Media

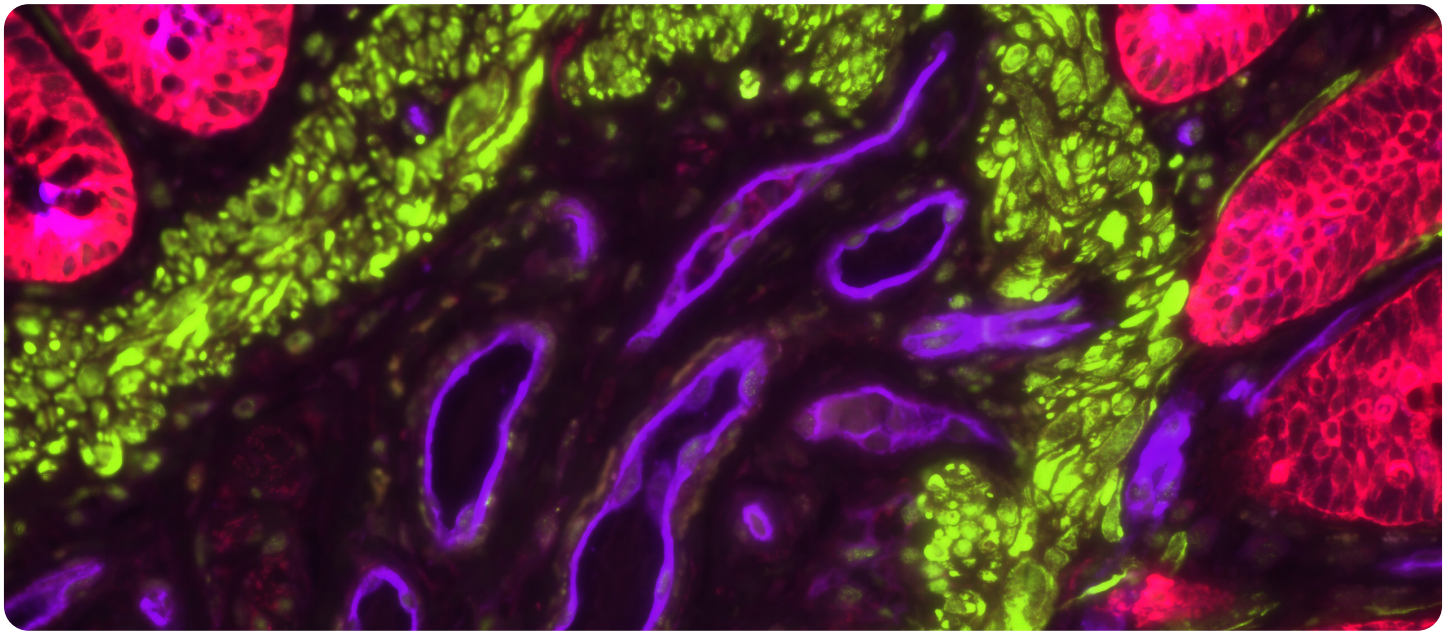
Unsurpassed antifading properties

Choosing an effective mounting medium is especially important for immunofluorescence imaging. Fluorophores are prone to photobleaching and signal loss caused by excitation light during imaging as well as degradation over time in storage. The right mounting medium will protect your samples for short- and long-term use and archiving.

VECTASHIELD® Antifade Mounting Media formulations offer unsurpassed protection against fading and photobleaching. The VECTASHIELD portfolio including VECTASHIELD Vibrance® and VECTASHIELD PLUS Antifade Mounting Media are well-established, market-leading products that complete the workflow and provide excellent signal retention for image acquisition and specimen archiving.

Key Advantages of VECTASHIELD Vibrance and VECTASHIELD PLUS

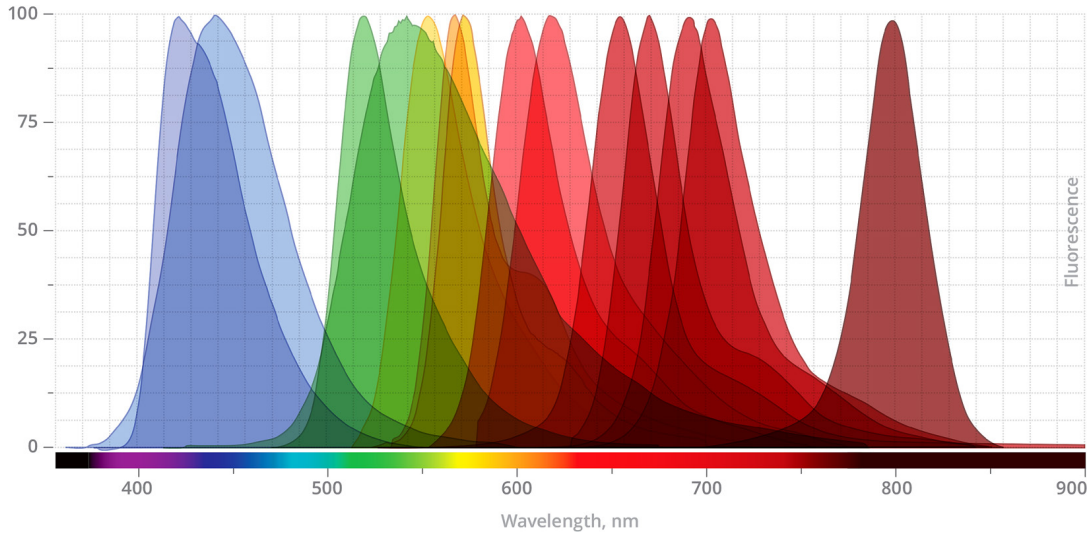
- Inhibits photobleaching of almost any fluorescent dye, fluorescent protein or stain
- Preserves fluorophore intensity across the spectrum
- Enables imaging within one hour of mounting for faster workflow turnaround
- Ideal refractive index
- Continues to inhibit photobleaching even after prolonged storage of mounted slides
- Easy-to-use
- With or without nuclear or cytoskeletal counterstain
- Hardening or non-hardening formulations
- No bubble formulation during storage



Human Colon: Rabbit Anti-Cytokeratin (AE1/AE3) and Mouse Anti-Desmin detected simultaneously with VectaFluor™ Duet Double Labeling Kit; Vasculature detected using DyLight™ 649 UEA I Lectin (purple). Mounted in VECTASHIELD® PLUS Antifade Mounting Medium.

VECTASHIELD Mounting Media Formulations

VECTASHIELD Mounting Media are the most widely referenced antifade mounting media for immunofluorescence applications, with a proven track record spanning decades of published research. With over 60,000 published references citing their use, VECTASHIELD reagents have become the gold standard for protecting fluorescent signals across a broad range of experimental conditions. This extensive body of peer-reviewed literature demonstrates the trust in VECTASHIELD for preserving signal integrity and maximizing imaging results. Whether you are working with traditional dyes, next-generation fluorescent proteins, or multiplexed panels, VECTASHIELD Mounting Media deliver the proven antifade protection your experiments demand.



Next-Generation Formulations

VECTASHIELD Vibrance Antifade Mounting Medium

VECTASHIELD Vibrance Antifade Mounting Medium is an aqueous mountant that hardens at room temperature in as little as 20 minutes. This mounting medium provides easy slide handling, eliminates the need to secure the coverslip with nail polish, and is convenient for use with oil immersion microscopy. Available with or without DAPI counterstain.

VECTASHIELD PLUS Antifade Mounting Medium

VECTASHIELD PLUS is a new formulation of non-setting media that improves upon the original VECTASHIELD products. Specifically, VECTASHIELD PLUS exhibits no inherent background or toning and provides superior fluorophore signal retention across the spectrum, including far-red wavelengths.

Original Formulations

VECTASHIELD Antifade Mounting Medium

VECTASHIELD Antifade Mounting Medium is a glycerol-based, aqueous mountant that remains a viscous liquid on the slide rather than solidifying. After mounting, cover-slipped slides will not readily dry out, enabling you to review them for weeks without the need for sealing. For prolonged storage, coverslips can be permanently sealed with nail polish applied on the coverslip perimeter.

VECTASHIELD HardSet Antifade Mounting Medium

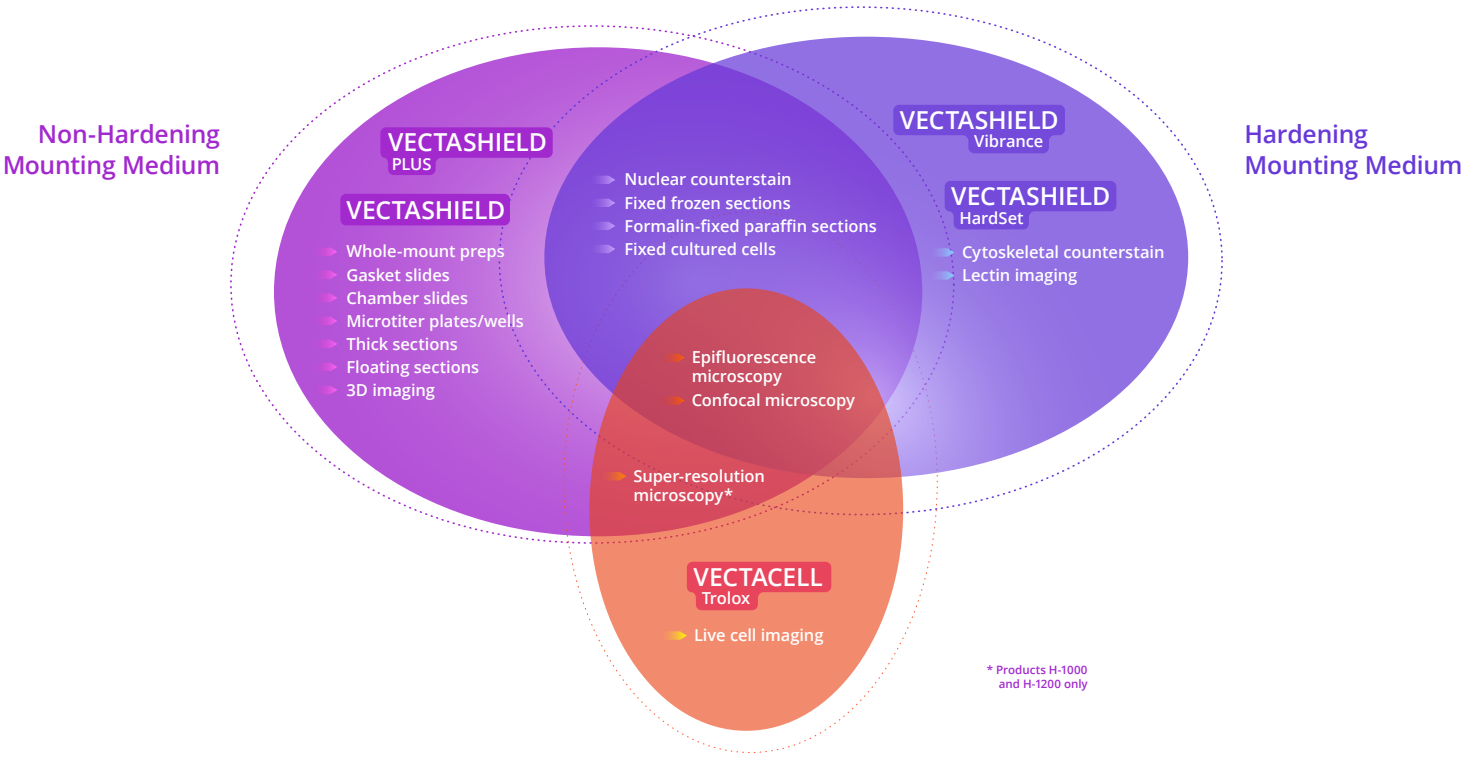
VECTASHIELD HardSet Antifade Mounting Medium is an aqueous mountant that hardens at room temperature in as little as 20 minutes. This mounting medium provides easy slide handling, eliminates the need to secure the coverslip with nail polish, and is convenient for use with oil immersion microscopy. Available with or without DAPI or TRITC-phalloidin counterstain.

Live-Cell Imaging Formulations

VectaCell Trolox Antifade Reagent

VectaCell Trolox contains both Trolox and its oxidized form Trolox-quinone. This system reduces photo-bleaching and blinking during live cell imaging, and has also been shown to have a cytoprotective effect and low cytotoxicity for different cell lines.

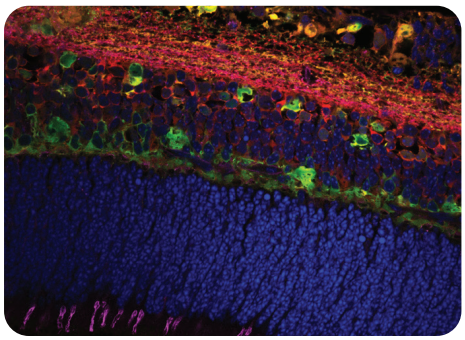
VECTASHIELD Mounting Media Applications and Compatibility



	VECTASHIELD PLUS		VECTASHIELD Vibrance
Compatible with most Alexa Fluor, DyLight, and CY dyes in the visible spectrum	✔		✔
Compatible with traditional dyes and fluorescent proteins	✔		✔
Refractive index after curing	1.45		1.47
Non-hardening vs. hardening	Non-hardening		Hardening
Mounted sections viewable after 1 hour	✔		✔
Preferred for DAPI/AMCA channels	✔		✔
Storage conditions	2–8°C		Room Temp or 2–8°C
Available with DAPI counterstain	✔		✔
Lectin imaging			✔
Fixed frozen sections	✔		✔
Formalin-fixed paraffin sections	✔	✔	✔
Whole-mount preps	✔		
Gasket slides	✔		
Chamber slides	✔		
Microtiter plates/wells	✔		
Thick sections	✔		
Floating sections	✔		
3D imaging	✔		
Epifluorescence microscopy	✔		✔
Confocal microscopy	✔		✔
Super-resolution microscopy	✔		

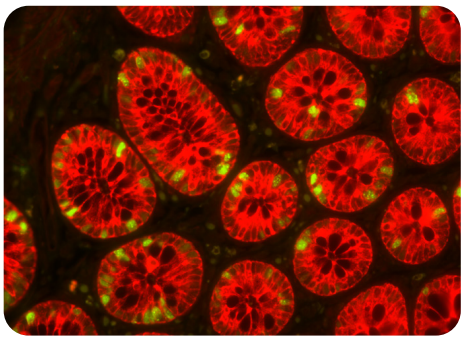
Vector Laboratories has been a trusted leader in fluorescence workflows with our renowned VECTASHIELD line of mounting media. Designed to meet the precise requirements of researchers, VECTASHIELD effectively prevents photobleaching, keeping fluorescent signals clear, bright, and stable throughout extended imaging sessions. VECTASHIELD reagents set the standard in anti-fade mounting media, making them the optimal choice for routine and advanced fluorescent imaging applications. Building on this proven track record, our next-generation formulations, VECTASHIELD® Vibrance® and VECTASHIELD® PLUS, deliver enhanced performance with superior optical clarity, optimized compatibility across the full fluorescence spectrum, and even greater preservation of fluorescent signals.

Tissue Sections



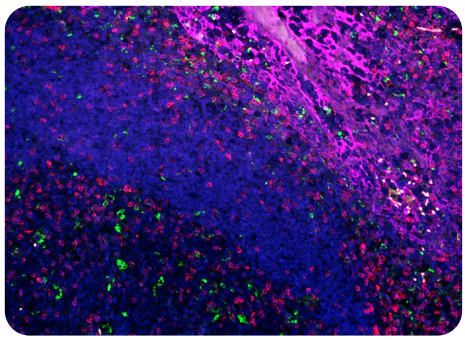
Confocal image of mouse retina stained for synapsin (red) calbindin (green), biotinylated PNA lectin detected with streptavidin 633 (magenta) and mounted with VECTASHIELD Vibrance Mounting Medium with DAPI (blue).

Super Resolution



Human Colon: Rabbit Anti-Cytokeratin (AE1/AE3) and Mouse Anti-Ki67 detected simultaneously with VectaFluor Duet Double Labeling Kit; DyLight 488 Anti-Mouse (green)/DyLight 594 Anti-Rabbit (red). Mounted in VECTASHIELD PLUS.

Cell Culture



Tyramide Signal Amplification based on multiplexing using VectaPlex and 3 mouse primary antibodies. CD3 staining in red (Opal 570), CD68 in green (Opal 520), AE1/AE3 in purple (Opal 690) and DAPI staining in blue. Performed on FFPE tonsil tissue. Mounted in VECTASHIELD Vibrance Mounting Medium.

Product	Counterstain	Unit Size	Cat. No.
VECTASHIELD® PLUS Antifade Mounting Medium	None	2 ml, 10 ml	H-1900
	DAPI	2 ml, 10 ml	H-2000
VECTASHIELD Vibrance® Antifade Mounting Medium	None	2 ml, 10 ml	H-1700
	DAPI	2 ml, 10 ml	H-1800
VECTASHIELD® Antifade Mounting Medium	None	10 ml	H-1000
	DAPI	10 ml	H-1200
	PI	10 ml	H-1300
VECTASHIELD® HardSet™ Antifade Mounting Medium	None	10 ml	H-1400
	DAPI	10 ml	H-1500
	TRITC–Phalloidin	10 ml	H-1600
VectaCell Trolox Antifade Reagent	None	2ml	CB-1000

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