

# Acetobacter

**Acetobacter** is a kind of [bacteria](#). These bacteria are known by their ability to change [alcohol](#) to [acetic acid](#) in the presence of [air](#). There are several [species](#) within this [genus](#), and there are other bacteria that can form acetic acid under different conditions; but all of the *Acetobacter* are known by this ability.

## Why Acetobacter is important

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*Acetobacter* are important to people, because:

- they are used to make [vinegar](#) (intentionally converting the ethanol in the [wine](#) to acetic acid)
- they can destroy wine which it infects by producing big amounts of acetic acid or [ethyl acetate](#).

Sometimes, *Acetobacter* is not wanted. It can be killed by adding [preservatives](#) like [Sulfur dioxides](#), or by getting rid of the [air](#) when the wine is stored.

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