

# Cell membrane

A [membrane](#) is a selective barrier; it allows some things to pass through but stops others. Such things may be [molecules](#), [ions](#), or other small [particles](#). Biological membranes include cell membranes (outer coverings of cells or organelles that allow passage of certain constituents); nuclear membranes, which cover a cell [nucleus](#); and tissue membranes, such as [mucosae](#) and [serosae](#). Synthetic membranes are made by humans for use in laboratories and industry (such as chemical plants). The influent of an artificial membrane is known as the feed-stream, the liquid that passes through the membrane is known as the permeate, and the liquid containing the retained constituents is the retentate or concentrate.

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