

TOXICOLOGY

Toxicology is the testing of urine and blood for drugs of abuse, including alcohol and other drugs which may cause impairment. Urine is the specimen of choice for toxicology in sexual assault cases, and situations where recent past use is in question. For DUID-type cases, blood is the specimen of choice for alcohol and toxicology. Blood will be screened for drugs at the officer's request if the blood or breath alcohol level is below 0.10 percent, or in cases with extenuating circumstances.

Both urine and blood kits are provided free of charge to the agency by their regional laboratory.

REMEMBER: Deliver or mail sample as soon as possible. Delay may impact the lab's ability to confirm suspected drugs. Do NOT leave the sample in a hot patrol car!

A. Urine:

1. Fill in ALL the information on the collection bottle, labels, and submittal form.
2. Specimen should be collected directly in the container.
3. Specimen should ideally fill at least half of the container, but not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full (as it expands when frozen).
4. Secure lid tightly and attach the security seal provided.
5. Place sealed container in the provided plastic biohazard baggy with absorbent pad.
6. Place biohazard baggy with enclosed specimen container into the box and seal the box. Be sure to initial the seal.
7. Place submittal form on top of sealed box, and slide both into the mailing sleeve provided.
8. If storing, freeze the sample upright. If unable to freeze, at least refrigerate samples. Please mark an arrow the box to indicate "up" for freezing purposes.
9. Submit the sample to the appropriate lab (Coeur d'Alene or Pocatello). If mailing the sample, secure the mailing sleeve w/packaging tape to prevent form from sliding out, or ship collection kit inside another box or mailing envelope.

B. Blood:

1. Blood should be drawn in a medically acceptable manner by a qualified individual.
2. The preferred kit for drawing blood is the ISP-provided kit. These have tubes with 10 milligrams of sodium fluoride per cubic centimeter of blood as required for legal blood alcohols, as well as the appropriate submittal forms.
3. Prior to use, confirm the kit is sealed and has not expired.
4. Ask that the tubes be filled as full as possible.
5. Make sure the tubes have been gently rocked back and forth to mix the anti-coagulant and preservative with the blood.
6. Leave the used needle (and other blood-draw supplies) with the person who drew the blood. It is a biohazard to you and the analyst!
7. Seal the tubes with the seals provided in the kit, place the tubes in the cardboard tube holder, and place inside the biohazard bag. Place bag inside the kit and seal the kit. Be sure to initial the seal.
8. If storing, refrigerate, but do **NOT** freeze. (The blood tubes may break if frozen).
9. Complete the paperwork. Include list of suspected drugs if drugs other than alcohol are suspected.
10. Place submittal form on top of sealed collection kit, slide both into the mailing sleeve provided.
11. Send samples for blood alcohol testing to the laboratory that services your region. If requesting blood alcohol and blood toxicology, send it to the laboratory that serves your region for blood

alcohol processing first. If requesting ONLY blood toxicology, send directly to the Pocatello laboratory.

NOTE: If a kit is not available, use tubes containing 10 milligrams of sodium fluoride per cubic centimeter of blood. Wrap the tubes in cotton or absorbent material and package in a strong mailing carton.