

Stool Collection Instructions

You will be given stool (feces) collection kits. You may need to collect more than one sample. Follow the directions in the kits. The contents may be different.

To collect stool samples:



- Urinate before you collect the stool so that you **don't** get any urine in the stool sample.
- Follow the directions for putting the sample collection container on the toilet.
- Pass stool (have a bowel movement) into the collection container.
 - o Do **not** collect the sample from the toilet bowl.
 - o Do **not** mix toilet paper, water, or soap with the sample.

Types of stool:

- **Solid stool:** Firm and holds its shape.
- **Loose stool:** Soft and unformed, more like mush.
- **Liquid stool:** Watery with no solid pieces, more like diarrhea.

If you were given containers with a black or orange lid:



- Add stool into the container to make the fluid in the container go to the fill line. Use the spoon attached to the lid to mix well.

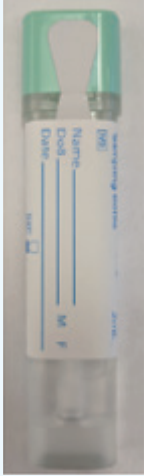
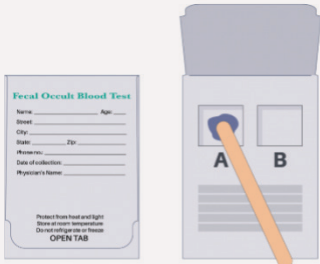
Label all containers with the following:

- Patient Name
- Date of Birth
- Date and Time of Collection
- Take **ALL** collection containers to the lab as quickly as possible.

The table on the next few pages goes over how to properly collect and store stool samples. Please find the stool studies that were ordered for you and follow those guidelines.

Stool Tests Ordered	Container	Acceptable Types of Stool	Smallest Amount Needed	Transport Information
Alpha-1 Antitrypsin	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Calprotectin	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Clostridioides difficile Toxin	Plain plastic collection container	Loose or liquid (not solid)	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Cryptosporidia Antigen	Container with black lid that keeps stool samples fresh for testing (preservative)	Any	Add stool until the fluid reaches the fill line on the container within 30 minutes of collection.	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Giardia Antigen	Container with black lid that keeps stool samples fresh for testing (preservative)	Any	Add stool until the fluid reaches the fill line on the container within 30 minutes of collection.	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
GI Panel	Container with orange lid that keeps stool samples fresh for testing (preservative)	Loose or liquid (not solid)	Add stool until the fluid reaches the fill line on the container within 4 hours of collection.	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
H. pylori Antigen	Plain plastic collection container	Solid or loose (not liquid)	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Lactoferrin	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Ova and Parasites (includes Microsporidia and Cyclospora/Isospora)	Container with black lid that keeps stool samples fresh for testing (preservative)	Any	Add stool until the fluid reaches the fill line on the container within 30 minutes of collection.	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Pancreatic Elastase	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
pH, Feces	Plain plastic collection container	Loose or liquid	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. *Deliver to the lab within 12 hours.

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Stool Tests Ordered	Container	Acceptable Types of Stool	Smallest Amount Needed	Transport Information
Reducing Substance	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. *Deliver to the lab within 12 hours.
Rotavirus	Plain plastic collection container	Any	1 Tablespoon	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Stool Culture	Container with orange lid that keeps stool samples fresh for testing (preservative)	Any	Add stool until the fluid reaches the fill line on the container within 4 hours of collection.	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Stool Fecal Fat	Plain plastic collection container	Any	3 Tablespoons	Keep refrigerated. Deliver to the lab within 24 hours.
Stool Occult Blood – Immunochemical Automated	Container provided in kit 	Any	You will use a small tool to scrape a tiny of bit of stool from the surface.”	Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 5 days.
Stool Occult Blood	Follow the directions to spread a small amount of stool in boxes A and B of the card 	Any	1 Tablespoon	Let the sample air dry at room temperature. Keep at room temperature. Deliver to the lab within 5 days.



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