

Stool Specimens

Most laboratory tests require no special preparation on the part of the patient. There are some, however, that do.

What do I need to know about collecting a stool specimen (sample)?

The quality of the test depends on the condition of the sample.

How do I collect a stool sample?

- Collect the sample in the container provided by the lab.
- There should be enough sample to cover the bottom of the container.
- The sample must not have urine in it.

What about special circumstances?

If your doctor has ordered a stool culture only or both a stool culture and a test for ova and parasites

- The sample must be returned to the lab within 1 hour of collection.

If the doctor orders only an Ova and Parasite test

- Return the sample as soon as possible
- If there is a delay, refrigerate the sample until you can return it to the lab
- Please be careful with the ova and parasite containers (they contain formaldehyd)

For additional health information
contact the Health Information Center at (918) 494-1080