

Specimen Options

Before choosing the specimen type, it is important to consider use case, desired detection window, range of detectable substances, test frequency, and substance combinations.

Specimen Type	Range of Detectable Substances	Detection Window	Collection Process	Common Use
Blood	>1,500	8 - 12 hours	Invasive	DWI, Post Mortem
Breath	1	8 - 12 hours	Non-invasive	DWI
Oral Fluid	>100	5 - 48 hours	Non-invasive	Abstinence Monitoring
Urine	>1,500	2 - 3 days	Moderately Invasive	Abstinence Monitoring
Sweat	<10	5 - 10 days	Non-invasive	Travel, Rural
Hair	<20	2 weeks - 3 months	Non-invasive to Invasive	Child Custody, Rural

Substances are detectable in various sample types at different times and in different concentration levels. For this reason, results across sample types (e.g., urine results and oral fluid results) are not comparable.

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Windows of Detection

CASE STUDY

Assume a client has has no drinks for an entire week, but consumes a glass of wine within the last five minutes. If we test for alcohol the following specimen test results would be:

Most Likely Result by Specimen Type						
Breath	Oral Fluid Urine		Hair	Sweat		
Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative		