

TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY
Ova & Parasite (O&P)	O&P Kit (pink & blue vials with preservative)	Collect stool in a container. Using the collection spoons put the stool in the vial until the liquid reaches the red line. Mix contents with collection spoon.	Stool must be placed in the vials within 1 hour of collection. Stable at room temperature for 7 days once inside vials.
Stool Culture	Cary Blair (orange/green vial with preservative)	Collect stool in a container. Using the collection spoons put the stool in the vial until the liquid reaches the black arrow. Mix contents with collection spoon.	Stool must be placed in the vials within 1 hour of collection. Stable at room temperature for 2 days once inside the vials. <b>NEVER refrigerate a stool culture.</b>
	Culture Swab	Insert swab past the anal sphincter to sample stool. Replace swab fully to release preservative fluid and saturate swab.	Stool is stable for 24 hours when the swab tip is saturated. <b>NEVER refrigerate a stool culture.</b>
Clostridium difficile Toxin Test	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated stool stable for 24 hours. Frozen stool stable for several days.
Alpha-1-antitrypsin	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated stool stable for 72 hours. Frozen stool stable for several days.
Giardia/ Cryptosporidium Antigen	O&P Kit (pink & blue vials with preservative) (Cary Blair also acceptable)	Collect stool in a container. Using the collection spoons put the stool in the pink lid vial until the liquid reaches the red line. Mix contents with collection spoon.	Stable at room temperature for 7 days once inside the vials. (Refrigerate if using the Cary Blair container)
Fat, Qualitative	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated stool stable for 72 hours.
Gram Stain (Stool WBC)	Culture Swab	Insert swab past the anal sphincter to sample stool. Replace swab fully to release preservative fluid and saturate swab.	Stool is stable for 24 hours at room temperature when the swab is saturated.
Guaiac (occult blood)	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container 1 teaspoon of stool.	Refrigerated stool stable for 8 hours.
	Hemoccult® Cards	Collect stool on Hemoccult® card provided by ChildLab. (Collect a small, match head-sized sample of stool and using a clean applicator stick, apply a thin smear in box A of the card. Repeat procedure for box B of the card, using a different area of the stool sample. Close the lid of card.)	Stool is stable at room temperature for 14 days once on card.
Helicobacter pylori	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container ½ teaspoon of stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine	Refrigerated stool stable for 72 hours.
Stool pH	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container ½ teaspoon of loose or semi liquid stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Freeze
Reducing Substances	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container ½ teaspoon of very loose or liquid stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Freeze
Rotavirus	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container ½ teaspoon of stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine	Refrigerated stool stable for 72 hours. Frozen stool stable for several days.
Trypsin	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container 1 teaspoon of formed stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated stool stable for 72 hours.
EHEC Enterohemorrhagic E. Coli	Cary Blair (orange/green vial with preservative)	Collect stool in a container. Using the collection spoons put the stool in the vial until the liquid reaches the black arrow. Mix contents with collection spoon.	Stool must be placed in the vials within 1 hour of collection. Stable at room temperature for 2 days once inside the vials. <b>NEVER refrigerate a stool culture.</b>
	Culture Swab	Insert swab past the anal sphincter to sample stool. Replace swab fully to release preservative fluid and saturate swab	Stool is stable for 24 hours when the swab tip is saturated. <b>NEVER refrigerate a stool culture.</b>
Calprotectin	Specimen Container	Collect in a specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Stable at room temperature for 72 hours. Frozen stool stable several days.