

## Laboratory Services

### Collection and Handling Instructions for Total-Fix Stool Collection System

#### Preferred specimen:

- Collection of fecal specimens for intestinal parasites should always be performed prior to the use of any antacids, barium, bismuth, antidiarrheal medication, or oily laxatives.
- Routine examination for parasites prior to treatment, a minimum of three specimens, collected on alternate days, is recommended. Two of the specimens should be collected after normal movements, and one after a cathartic, such as magnesium sulfate or fleet Phospho-Soda. If the patient has diarrhea, do not use a laxative.

**Collection of a stool specimen for parasite testing:** Fecal specimens should be collected in a clean, dry wide mouthed container; a bedpan is ideal. However, a waxed, cardboard half-pint container with a tight-fitting lid, a clean, dry milk carton with the top two thirds removed or a plastic bag or plastic wrap placed over the toilet seat opening is acceptable. Contamination with urine should be avoided.

#### Specimen Preparation:

- Small samples of the specimen should be placed into the vial using the spork built into the lid of the vial. Pay particular attention to the areas that appear bloody or contain a lot of mucus. Add samples until the fluid level reaches the red “fill line”. This will ensure the appropriate three to one ratio of fixative to sample.
- Use the spork to thoroughly stir and mix the stool with fixative. Recap the vial, making sure the lid is securely fastened. Firmly shake the vial until contents are thoroughly mixed (the solution should appear homogeneous) Stool should be in Total-Fix for at least 30 minutes for complete fixation.
- Fill out patient information on the side of each vial. Seal the vials in a plastic biohazard specimen bag.

**Caution:** Every sample should be treated as a potential source of contamination.

**Storage and Shipment:** Following collection, Total-Fix preserved stool samples stored at room temperature are preferred, but refrigerated samples are acceptable.

Ambient (15-25°C): 7 days; Refrigerated (2-8°C): 7 days; Frozen: Unacceptable.

[Microbiology Test Menu | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

**Reference:** Total-Fix Stool Collection System package insert. Medical Chemical Corporation. Revised June 7, 2016.



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**Total-Fix™**

Stool Collection System  
Catalog # 2807-05  
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