



Faeces collection for Micro and Culture

Please follow these instructions carefully to ensure that your test results are accurate and reliable.

Your doctor or pathology collector may give you one or two jars for specimen collection. This will depend on what your doctor is investigating.

1. Label the jar(s) with your full name, date of birth and date and time of collection.
2. Ensure that no urine comes into contact with the faeces sample.
3. Pass urine into the toilet first if necessary, then place a clean plastic container (such as an ice cream container) into the toilet bowl to catch the faeces.
4. Using the scoop inside the lid of the jar with the brown lid, collect an amount the size of an unshelled walnut, put into the jar and secure lid tightly.

If you also have a second jar (yellow lid) with liquid (fixative) already in it, unscrew the lid, remove the small stick attached to the inside and dip into the faeces. Collect enough to fill to the line on the side of the jar. Place the stick back into the fluid filled jar, tighten the lid and shake gently 5 – 6 times to mix.

5. Deliver the specimen(s) to your nearest Melbourne Pathology collection centre as soon as possible after collection.
6. If your doctor has requested 'reducing substances' or 'faecal elastase', collect a separate sample and freeze immediately.

Note to Doctor: For ova/parasite investigation – use fixative filled yellow topped jar. This same jar is not suitable for culture.