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# COMPARING ON-SITE TESTING METHODS

## Urine vs. Oral Fluid Testing

Questions around differences in detection windows among urine and oral fluid testing often arise. Urine-based point-of-collection testing has a longer window of detection, for most drugs from 24-72 hours, whereas oral fluid testing is 24-36 hours for water-soluble drugs. The biggest difference is in the detection window of THC. Since THC is a fat-soluble, rather than a water-soluble drug, it does not cross directly into oral fluid. Therefore, THC is detected as residual smoke or parent compound in saliva, not as a metabolite. As a result, THC can only be detected for up to 24 hours in oral fluid testing.

A common misconception is that THC can be detected in urine for one month after use. This is very rare and only in extreme cases. THC is typically only detectable in occasional users for 24-72 hours following use.

Another marked difference is that oral fluid detection is immediately after use. This means that in as little as minutes, drug may be detected in oral fluid. Drugs in urine testing may take up to 24 hours to metabolize and be detectable in a urine sample.



URINE TESTING		ORAL FLUID TESTING	
Pros	Most accepted means of drug testing	Pros	No need for controlled collection sites
			Detect recent drug use
			No tampering; Prevents adulteration
			Less invasive means of drug testing
Cons	Can be tampered	Cons	Shorter window of detection: THC
	Controlled collection sites		
	Invasive		
	Increased "ick" factor		
Drug First Detected	6-8 hours after use		< 1 hour after use
MAXIMUM DETECTION TIMES AFTER USE			
AMP	24-48 hours	AMP	24-48 hours
COC	24-72 hours	COC	24-48 hours
OPI	24-48 hours	OPI	24-48 hours
PCP	24-96 hours	PCP	24-48 hours
THC	24-72 hours	THC	Up to 24 hours