

HAIR DRUG TESTING FAQ

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1

HOW DOES THE TEST WORK?

First, the tester cuts the collected strands to about one-and-a-half inches, measured from the end closest to the scalp. The strands are then packaged and sent to a lab for analysis.

2

HOW ACCURATE IS IT?

Hair follicle tests are accurate enough to satisfy private employers, but many factors can interfere with the result of a test. Therefore, the government does not recognize hair test results for federally regulated programs.

3

HOW LONG DO DRUGS STAY IN HAIR?

Every month, your hair grows about a half an inch. That means every half inch holds detectable amounts of various substances you ingested during that particular month, including drugs used.

4

WHAT IF YOU HAVE A SHAVED HEAD?

A hair drug test does require hair. If a person has a shaved head, body hair can be a reasonable substitute. Leg, underarm, or chest hair can work, as well as beard hair.

5

HOW IS HAIR TESTING DIFFERENT FROM URINE TESTING?

The main difference is that hair testing examines a broader time window. With a 1.5 inch strand, it's possible to determine whether a person used a substance over the course of approximately 90 days.

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