

Establishing a drug-free workplace policy is in the best interest of both employers and employees. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence estimates that drug abuse costs employers approximately \$81 billion each year, and employers with long-standing drug-free policies report the reduced use of medical benefits by employees and their families. Here is an overview of six of the most common drug screening options, with average detection windows and pros & cons for each method.



TEST METHOD	AVERAGE DETECTION WINDOW	PROS	CONS
Lab-Based Urine Test	24-72 hours; Habitual THC use can be detected up to 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widely accepted method of testing</li> <li>Most cost-effective lab-based method</li> <li>DOT-compliant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection facility visit required</li> <li>Easiest method to mask or "cheat" test</li> </ul>
Instant Urine Test	24-72 hours; Habitual THC use can be detected up to 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost-effective</li> <li>Rapid results</li> <li>Widely-accepted method of testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easiest method to mask or "cheat" test</li> <li>Requires controlled restroom facilities</li> <li>May require same-sex collector</li> </ul>
Lab-Based Oral Fluid Test	24-36 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-invasive</li> <li>No special facilities required for collection</li> <li>Difficult to "cheat" result when administered correctly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shorter detection window, especially for THC</li> <li>Some states may limit/prohibit use in pre-employment screening</li> </ul>
Instant Oral Fluid Test	24-36 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-invasive</li> <li>No special facilities required for collection</li> <li>Rapid results</li> <li>Difficult to "cheat" result when administered correctly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shorter detection window, especially for THC</li> <li>Some states may limit/prohibit use in pre-employment screening</li> </ul>
Lab-based Hair Test	1-3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longest detection window</li> <li>No need for same-sex collector</li> <li>May be collected onsite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive</li> <li>Lack of easy specimen availability (bald donor)</li> </ul>
Lab-Based BloodTest	1-72 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detects very recent use</li> <li>Best for post-accident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive</li> <li>Invasive</li> <li>Requires clinic collection of specimen</li> </ul>

AccuSource, Inc. is a full-service employment screening provider with corporate headquarters located in Corona, California. Our mission is to strive to promote a balance between affording the latest in technology resources and providing consistent, supportive direct client care. It is our belief every client is unique and deserves a customized program of quality, compliant drug and background screening solutions to meet their specific organizational goals. We view every client as a partner and desire our partners to regard the AccuSource team as an extension of their company's human resources, security, and risk management departments, jointly dedicated to the success of their organization.