

Stool cultures are used to find bacteria that may cause fever and/or diarrhea.

Specimen Collection

1. The stool should be passed into a clean, dry specimen cup or container. For children, cover the inside of the diaper with plastic wrap to collect the stool, and then put the stool into the container.
1. Do not pass the stool into the toilet. Pass the stool into a **clean dry** container. A clean margarine tub, clean wide mouth jar or a clean milk carton with the top cut off can be used. Another way to collect the stool would be to use a large plastic bag to catch the stool. You may also raise the toilet seat, stretch plastic wrap across the bowl, just above the toilet water, place the toilet seat down and pass stool on to plastic wrap for collection.
2. Open the container, place small spoonfuls of stool from areas, which appear bloody, slimy, or watery and place in the container. If the stool is hard, try to take spoonfuls from each end and the middle.
3. Label the container with your name, date and time of collection.
4. Return the stool specimen to the laboratory within an hour of collection, if possible.

