



Urine Collection, 24-Hour

Most urine chemistry tests require a 24-hour collection. Record on the test requisition any medications that the patient is receiving. If a preservative is required, it is important that the designated preservative be in the urine collection container at the start of collection. The preservative will be defined in the test listing under "Specimen Requirement" if needed.

1. Depending upon the test, the container may contain a preservative. The patient should be cautioned that the preservative may be toxic and caustic, and not to spill or discard the preservative.
2. On the day of collection, discard the first morning urine void, and begin the collection after this void.
3. Collect all urine for the next 24 hours so that the morning urine void on the second day is the final collection.
4. If possible, the entire specimen should be refrigerated during collection or kept in a cool place. If kept at room temperature, bacterial growth will cause decomposition of urine constituents.
5. Measure total 24-hour urine volume in milliliters (mL). Record this volume on the test requisition and on the urine transport vial. (For trace element analysis, do not measure the 24-hour urine. This will prevent contamination of the specimen from the graduated cylinder.)
6. Transfer the requested volume into the labeled urine transport vial. Submit aliquot of measured urine specimen according to individual test specification.
7. Make sure that the specimen is properly labeled with the patient's last name, first name, test(s), and total volume.
8. Keep the specimen refrigerated or in a cool place until transported.