

Specimen Collection Guidelines

- Faeces for Intestinal Parasites, Ova and Culture

You may have been supplied with one or more vials containing **PVA FIXATIVE** and **PLAIN** specimen containers. These are available from the laboratory if your doctor does not give them to you.

1. Next time you pass a motion, pass it into a plastic ice-cream container, paper plate or similar vessel, or onto a “raft” of newspaper. Do not contaminate with urine or water.
2. Using the spatula or sticks provided, place a walnut sized portion of faeces into the plain specimen container (usually with a pink lid) **AND** another similar sized portion into the PVA fixative. It is important to do it in this order. If you have a fluid specimen, add about the equivalent of a tablespoon. If you passed mucoid or blood portions, try to collect these.
3. **THOROUGHLY MIX** the specimen in the PVA. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** Screw the lid on tightly.
4. Write your name, date of birth, and the date on both containers and circle the description of your specimen on the PVA label.
5. **DO NOT REFRIGERATE THE PVA.** Keep at warm room temperature.
6. If you have been asked to collect a series of specimens, collect on **DIFFERENT** days and bring them to the laboratory along with your doctor’s requisition form, preferably on the days they are collected.

Please note:

PVA fixative should be clear thick fluid. If it should turn white and set, return it to the laboratory. Do not use.

CAUTION

**PVA FIXATIVE IS POISONOUS, IT CONTAINS MERCURIC CHLORIDE.
KEEP WELL AWAY FROM CHILDREN.
DO NOT TAKE BY MOUTH.**

If accidentally swallowed, seek medical advice immediately.

If spilled onto skin, wash off with soap and water.

If you have any problems please contact Canterbury Health Laboratories:

Christchurch:	cnr Hagley Ave and Tuam St.	Ph 364 0300
Ashburton:	Ashburton Hospital, Elizabeth St.	Ph 307 8456