

Adulterants Used to Pass a Drug Test

Adulteration is the use of a substance designed to compromise, or attempt to compromise, the integrity of a urine specimen. There are many adulterants currently on the market that attempt to achieve this. Adulterants may create *false negatives*, destroy the drugs in the specimen, or both. Some drug cheats may also attempt to dilute the specimen in order to get a false negative result.

Fortunately, the better drug tests available on the market today are able to detect and defeat the majority of attempts at adulteration, especially with urine testing. One of the best ways to test for urine sample adulteration or dilution is to determine certain urinary characteristics such as temperature, colour, creatinine, nitrites, pH, oxidants, and specific gravity.

Creatinine is a waste product of creatine which is found in muscle tissue and urine. A person may try to dilute their results by drinking excessive amounts of water or using diuretics like herbal teas to “flush” their system. Creatinine testing is a way of checking for dilution and flushing/“cleansing” tactics. If there is no creatinine in the urine (or it is below 5 mg/dl) then the specimen is not consistent with normal human urine.

Nitrite tests for common adulterants like *Klear* or *Whizzies*. These adulterants work by oxidizing the marijuana metabolite THC-COOH. Normal urine should contain no trace of nitrite. If the urine is nitrite positive, then the urine was likely adulterated.

pH tests for the presence of acidic or alkaline adulterants in urine. Normal pH levels should be between 4.0 and 9.0. If outside this range, the sample may have been altered.

Oxidants test for the presence of oxidizing agents such as bleach and hydrogen peroxide. *UrineLuck*, a popular adulterant product, is one of a number of agents tested for. Normal human urine should not contain oxidants.

Specific gravity tests for sample dilution. The normal range is between 1.003 to 1.030. If the value is not within this range it may be the result of dilution or adulteration. If specific gravity and creatinine are low, the urine may have been diluted.

AWDTS offers three urine drug tests that have the technology to detect adulterants and ensure the urine sample is fresh. These are 6-panel cassettes or cups. Easy to read colour charts assist you to determine the pH and specific gravity of a sample, and also find out if there are any oxidants present. Dilution products nitrites will be detected. If you are worried about someone trying to cheat a drug test you are administering, we can assist with tests that will also give results for Opiates, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, THC, Benzodiazepine and Cocaine priced from around \$19.00 (+GST).



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