

Shipping Refrigerated Specimens In Extreme Heat

How to Keep Your Refrigerated Specimens Cold During Hot Texas Summers

Beat the Texas Heat and Submit Testable Specimens to the DSHS Laboratory

Refrigerated Specimens Must Arrive Cold at the Lab

THE ISSUE: Many specimens that require refrigeration arrive at the DSHS Laboratory at ambient temperatures. These specimens are unsuitable for testing and must be rejected.

- Refrigerated specimens must be kept between 2°C to 8°C.
- Generally, courier and shipping service vehicles that transport specimens to the Laboratory are not refrigerated.
- Even on a moderately hot Texas summer day (35°C/ 95°F), the internal temperature of a vehicle can reach 54°C/130°F within 30 minutes.

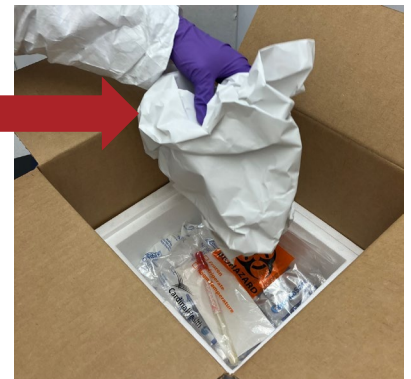


Much of Texas endures summer temperatures of + 100°F.

Keeping Refrigerated Specimens Cold in Transit

PACKING TIPS: Ship in insulated containers with enough frozen cold packs to keep the specimen(s) cold for up to 48 hrs.

- Use multiple frozen gel packs in each insulated container. **One frozen gel pack is not enough!**
 - **Ensure gel packs are frozen before use.**
 - **Do not use dry ice.**
- Surround specimens with frozen gel packs.
- Maximize insulation and cushion specimen by packing all remaining empty space in cooler with absorbent material.
- Secure cooler lid in place.
- Ship **OVERNIGHT** to guarantee timely delivery to the Lab.
- Specimens accepted Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. only.
 - **Do not ship for weekend or holiday delivery.**



Use multiple cold packs (as space allows) and minimize empty space in shippers to improve insulation.

Specimen Submission/Shipping Questions?

Specimen Acquisition Group:

512-776-7598 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578 (toll free)

Microbiology Specimen Logistics Group:

512-776-6730; micro.logistics@dshs.texas.gov