

Detection Periods For Drugs Of Abuse

Drug	Detection Period
Alcohol (ethanol)	3-10 hours (about 1 hour per beer)
Amphetamine (amphetamine & methamphetamine)	1-2 days
Barbiturates secobarbital or butalbital phenobarbital	1-2 days 2-6 weeks
Benzodiazepines light to moderate use heavy use	3-5 days 3-6 weeks
Cannabinoids (marijuana metabolites) single use several times/week daily	1-2 days (urine) 2 weeks (urine) 3-6 weeks □
Cocaine (as metabolite benzoylecgonine) occasional use chronic heavy use	1-4 days 1-3 weeks
Methadone	2-3 days
Methaqualone (Quaalude)	2 weeks
Opiates morphine codeine heroin hydromorphone	1-3 days
Phencyclidine (PCP)	2 days - 2 weeks
Propoxyphene (Darvon)	6 hours - 2 days

- These are approximate detection times for the drug or metabolites in *urine*. The actual detection time depends on individual metabolism and the dose of the drug.
- Blood concentrations of these drugs are very low, and detection times are very short (several hours). Therefore, blood is not recommended as a specimen for workplace drug testing.