

Instructions for Use

FROZEN GEL PACK FOR LABCORP CLIENTS WITH OUTDOOR SPECIMEN LOCKBOXES



Frozen gel pack provided by LabCorp



Position of frozen gel pack in floor lockbox



Position of frozen gel pack in hanging lockbox

Helping Ensure the Best Care for Your Specimens

- 1. Before gel pack use:** Prepare the gel pack for use by placing it in your freezer for 4 hours or longer. (It should be **frozen** solid prior to being placed in your lockbox.)
- 2. After gel pack use:** Return the gel pack to your freezer and freeze for a minimum of 4 hours before using it again in the lockbox. **Reminder:** The gel pack should be frozen solid before each use.
- 3. Guidelines for gel pack use:** If you are unable to position your lockbox indoors, use of 1 or more **frozen** gel packs, as shown at left, is recommended. Use the following guide to determine how many frozen gel packs to use based on the **approximate outdoor temperature at the time you place specimens in the lockbox.**

Below 80°F:	NO frozen gel pack recommended
80° to 100°F:	1 frozen gel pack recommended
105° to 120°F:	2 frozen gel packs recommended

If it is not possible to avoid placing your LabCorp lockbox where it will be exposed to direct sunlight, **add 20°F to the temperatures listed above** to determine how many frozen gel packs to use.

NOTES

- Keep your specimens from coming in direct contact with the frozen gel pack by adjusting the position of the specimens or adding simple insulation, such as paper towels, between the specimens and the gel pack.
- If you have **frozen** specimens to be placed in your lockbox, add the specimen Trans-Pak or special frozen container to the lockbox, **pre-frozen** just as you do today.
- If you have questions regarding the use of frozen gel packs in your LabCorp lockbox, please ask your LabCorp service representative.

Q&A

FROZEN GEL PACK USE FOR LABCORP CLIENTS WITH OUTDOOR SPECIMEN LOCKBOXES

In situations where your specimen lockbox **must** be placed outdoors, adding a frozen gel pack to the lockbox during warmer weather will help provide a moderate temperature inside the lockbox until specimens are collected by your LabCorp service representative.

This gel pack should be **frozen** before use, even though used with specimens that are not frozen. Solid freezing (versus refrigeration) of the gel pack prior to use will assist with temperature control within the insulated LabCorp specimen lockbox when placed outdoors.

Positioning the specimen lockbox in direct sunlight should be avoided if possible, but if there is no option, please adhere to the guidelines provided to compensate for additional heat from the sun.

Q. Why do I need to include a frozen gel pack if the lockbox is insulated?

A. This additional procedure helps maintain specimen integrity during excessively warm weather.

Q. Should the frozen gel pack be used when a specimen lockbox is on the door of my office opening onto a hallway inside the building?

A. No, this is intended strictly for use with the specimen lockboxes that are placed **outside** the building.

Q. Will my specimens be rejected if I do not use the frozen gel pack?

A. Specimens will **not** be rejected based on the absence of the frozen gel pack. The specimen lockbox is designed to maintain specimens adequately prior to being collected by your LabCorp service representative. The frozen gel pack assists with temperature control in excessively warm weather.

Q. The specimens are not frozen; why does the gel pack need to be frozen?

A. In the same way that an ice cube is more powerful in cooling a drink than adding a spoonful of very cold water, the ice in a frozen gel pack will slowly absorb more heat than a refrigerated gel pack.

Q. What should I do if I notice moisture in the lockbox that might be due to the presence of the frozen gel pack?

A. Depending on local temperature and humidity conditions, some condensation may form on the frozen gel pack. Placing a folded paper towel under the frozen gel pack will help absorb moisture.

Q. If the weather is cool should I worry that using a frozen gel pack will over-cool the specimens?

A. The temperature guide provided on the other side of this sheet will help you determine when to use the frozen gel pack with your specimens.

Thank you for helping LabCorp maintain the very best environment for your laboratory specimens.



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