

SHIPPING DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS

IN EXTREME HEAT

GOAL: Prevent overheating that may destroy or decrease the diagnostic quality of the sample

THREE ITEMS TO CONSIDER:



TIME



TEMPERATURE

EXPOSURE

TIME

1. Ship overnight
2. Prolonged delivery times keep samples in the hot environment longer
3. Do not ship over the weekend or holidays



TEMPERATURE

1. Pack cold packs and absorbent material on the bottom of the insulated shipper to collect moisture
 - Can also place cold packs in a sealed plastic bag
 - Wrap the cold packs so that as they melt any moisture is absorbed
2. Cold packs should not be enclosed in the same bag as samples
3. Shipping container should be leak proof
 - Using only cardboard results in weakened boxes that may tear
4. Paperwork should be packaged separately from samples in a leak proof plastic bag to keep dry and clean

EXPOSURE

1. Provide protection to the samples by layering
2. Use an insulated shipping container – cardboard box with Styrofoam box inside
3. Fill dead space in the box with bulk material to provide additional insulation
4. Keep the samples centered in the box to avoid the warmer sides