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 the floor lockbox

Position of frozen gel pack in the hanging lockbox

Providing the best care for your specimens

1. **Before gel pack use:** Prepare the gel pack for use by placing it in your freezer for four hours or longer. It should be frozen solid prior to being placed in your lockbox.

2. **Guidelines for gel pack use:** If you are unable to position your lockbox indoors, use of one or more frozen gel packs, as shown above, is recommended. Use the below 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.

3. **After gel pack use:** Return the gel pack to your freezer and freeze for a minimum of four hours before using it again in the lockbox. Reminder: The gel pack should be frozen solid before each use.

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 in the table 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 questions regarding the use of frozen gel packs in your Labcorp lockbox, please ask your Labcorp service representative.
- If you have frozen specimens to be placed in your lockbox, ensure that the specimens are frozen and place them in the Frozen Keeper, used specifically for frozen specimens, as directed before placing them inside the lockbox.

See **Questions and Answers** on back for more information.

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Q & A

Frozen gel pack 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 overcool 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 best environment for your laboratory specimens.

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