

Common Drugs of Abuse

Increased employee substance abuse can put your business at risk. It's important to know the signs, symptoms and dangers of common drugs of abuse to safeguard your organization. ESS offers pre-employment, student, random, and reasonable suspicion drug testing programs through urine, hair, and oral fluid testing options.

Name	Signs	Physical Symptoms	Dangers	Detection Time
Amphetamines	Tablets of varying colors Possible chain cigarette smoking	Long periods without rest or sleep, loss of appetite, anxiety, irritability, rapid speech, tremors, mood elevation	Disorientation, paranoia, severe depression, fatigue, possible hallucinations, increased blood pressure	Oral Fluid: 24 to 48 hours Urine: 1 to 3 days Hair: up to 90 days
Cocaine	Bitter white crystalline powder Granular rocks Glassine envelopes Small Spoons Razors	Short-lived euphoria changing to depression, irritability, nervousness, tightness of muscles	Shallow breathing, fever, anxiety, tremors, possible death from convulsions and respiratory arrest	Oral Fluid: 24 to 48 hours Urine: 1 to 3 days Hair: up to 90 days
Marijuana	Plastic Baggies Rolling Paper "Roach" Clips Odor of Burnt Rope	Altered perception, dilated pupils, lack of concentration and coordination, craving for sweets, increased appetite, laughter	Psychological dependence, increased heart rate, anxiety, impaired short-term memory, lung damage, possible psychosis with chronic use	Oral Fluid: 24 to 48 hours Urine: 1 to 5 days <i>occasional use</i> up to 30 days <i>habitual use</i> Hair: up to 90 days
Opioids	Capsules Tablets Glassine envelopes Needles & syringes Caps or spoons Tourniquets Needle marks on arms	Insensitivity to pain, euphoria, sedation, nausea, vomiting, itchiness, watery eyes, running nose	Lethargy, weight loss, hepatitis, slow and shallow breathing, possible death	Oral Fluid: 24 to 48 hours Urine: 1 to 3 days Hair: up to 90 days
Phencyclidine	Liquid capsules Injection paraphernalia White/brown powder on stamps Sugar cubes Cigarettes Joints	Increased pulse and heart rate, blood pressure and temperature, paranoia, panic, anxiety, nausea, mood and perception alteration, tremors, suicidal urges	Unpredictable behavior, flashbacks, hallucinations, emotional instability, psychosis	Oral Fluid: 24 to 48 hours Urine: 1 to 5 days <i>occasional use</i> up to 30 days <i>habitual use</i> Hair: up to 90 days
Barbiturates	Capsules of varying colors Longer periods of rest or sleep Cold and clammy skin Dizziness	Decreased alertness and muscle control, intoxication and slurred speech, drowsiness, depression	Rigidity and painful muscle contraction, emotional instability, possible overdose and death (especially when mixed with alcohol)	Urine: <i>Short Acting Compounds:</i> 1 to 3 days <i>Phenobarbital:</i> 1 to 3 weeks
Benzodiazepines	Pills Injection Paraphernalia	Slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior with no odor of alcohol	Shallow respiration, cold and clammy skin, dilated pupils, weak and rapid pulse, coma, possible death	Urine: varies from 1 to 14 days, dependent on specific drug
Methadone	White crystalline powder Tablets Liquids	Euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils, nausea	Slow and/or shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, possible death	Urine: 1 to 3 days
Propoxyphene	Tablets Capsules	Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, euphoria, dysphoria, asthenia	Skin rash, allergic reactions, drug fever, mucosal lesions, stupor or coma, convulsions, respiratory depression	Urine: 1 to 3 days

General Detection Times

Oral Fluid



24-48 hours

Urine



24-72 hours

Hair



up to 90 days