

Hair Drug Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

How does WA Police test for drugs?

As part of the recruitment and selection process, testing for illicit substances is conducted in two parts:

- a. A selection of applicants are chosen at random at any stage during the recruitment process to undertake testing for illicit substances through hair drug screening. Applicants selected to undergo testing will be contacted by Police Recruiting and provided with details regarding the date and venue for the testing.
- b. In addition, all applicants that progress to the stage of Final Health Assessment (P58) are tested for illicit substances through urinalysis drug screening.

What is hair drug testing?

Hair testing analyses the hair shaft to determine whether illicit drugs are present and can detect sustained use over a period of time.

What drugs are included in a standard hair follicle drug test?

A range of illicit substances are tested for including: Cocaine, marijuana, opiates (including heroin, codeine, morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone and hydromorphone), methamphetamine, Ecstasy (MDMA), Eve (MDEA) and phencyclidine (PCP).

What is an illicit substance?

Illicit substances for the purposes of recruitment into WA Police are defined under the Police Force (Member Testing) Regulations 2011, with reference to the relevant schedules within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981, Medicines and Poisons Act 2014, and any declared by the Commissioner of Police under those Member Testing Regulations.

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How is the hair sample collected?

An independent third party will collect the sample from suitable body hair. Drug tests are still able to be conducted on applicants with little or no hair on their head, as alternative samples are able to be taken from the body.

Who conducts the test?

Testing of the sample is undertaken by an expert independent third party (Psychemedics) who provide the results to Police Recruiting.

Is there a cost involved?

WA Police will cover the cost of the Hair Drug test.

What happens if an applicant does not consent to providing a hair or urinalysis drug screening or provides a positive result from screening?

Failure to agree to undertake testing for illicit substances through hair drug screening or urinalysis drug screening, or providing a positive result from that screening, may result in permanent removal from the WA Police recruitment process.

For further information on Hair Drug Testing please visit the Psychemedics Frequency Asked Questions Page on their website:

<https://www.psychemedics.com/hair-drug-testing-facts-faqs/#what-is>