

Hair Follicle Test Results: Understanding Levels Chart & Meaning

This chart breaks down common drug classes, their typical detection windows in hair follicle tests, and the specific cut-off levels labs use for screening and confirmation. Knowing these levels helps you understand what a 'positive' result truly means for different substances.

| DRUG CLASS / SPECIFIC DRUG <sup>↑↓</sup>          | DETECTION WINDOW (APPROX.) <sup>ti</sup> | SCREENING CUT-OFF LEVEL <sup>ti</sup> | CONFIRMATORY CUT-OFF LEVEL <sup>ti</sup> | WHAT A POSITIVE RESULT MEANS <sup>↑↓</sup>                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amphetamines (Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, MDMA) | Up to 90 days                            | 200 pg/mg                             | 200 pg/mg                                | The presence of amphetamines, methamphetamine, or ecstasy-type drugs. This indicates use within the 90-day detection window.    |
| Cocaine Metabolite (Benzoylecgonine)              | Up to 90 days                            | 500 pg/mg                             | 50 pg/mg                                 | Confirmation of cocaine use. Benzoylecgonine is the primary metabolite, so its detection confirms exposure to cocaine.          |
| Marijuana Metabolite (THC-COOH)                   | Up to 90 days                            | 1.0 pg/mg                             | 0.05 pg/mg                               | Cannabis (marijuana) use. The very low cut-off for confirmation helps distinguish actual use from trace environmental exposure. |
| Opiates (Codeine, Morphine)                       | Up to 90 days                            | 200 pg/mg                             | 200 pg/mg                                | Use of opiate drugs like codeine or morphine. This could stem from prescription medication or illicit sources.                  |
| Opiates (6-Acetylmorphine - Heroin Metabolite)    | Up to 90 days                            | 200 pg/mg (part of opiate screen)     | 10 pg/mg                                 | Specific confirmation of heroin use. 6-Acetylmorphine is a unique metabolite only found after heroin exposure.                  |
| Phencyclidine (PCP)                               | Up to 90 days                            | 300 pg/mg                             | 50 pg/mg                                 | PCP (angel dust) use. A positive result at these levels confirms exposure to this dissociative anesthetic.                      |

6 rows