



Washington - State Specific Information

Information provided is current as of February 1, 2024, and companies are encouraged to consult with legal counsel on these types of complex matters.

Cannabis Legalization History

Medical Use	Legalized – 2012 (Initiative 692) *Revised in 2012 with Initiative 502
Recreational Use	Legalized – 2012 (Initiative 502)
Possession/Personal Use Specifics	Adults can privately possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana for personal, 16 ounces of marijuana-infused products in edible form, and 72 ounces of marijuana products in liquid form. Cultivation is illegal for recreational, medical marijuana patients, registered with the state's program, can cultivate a limited number of plants for personal use with proper authorization.
	Public consumption remains strictly prohibited, and utilizing marijuana in a moving vehicle incurs a traffic infraction.

State Regulatory Agency Information

State Regulatory Agency	Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
State Forms (If Applicable)	None Specified

State Testing Policy

General Information	While Washington doesn't mandate a formal drug-free workplace program , employers can incentivize participation through the Washington Drug-Free Workplace (WDFW) Program, offering workers' compensation premium discounts for implementing key components like education, EAPs, and supervisor training. Remember, establishing robust documentation is a key risk mitigant for employers in states like Washington.
Safety Sensitive Positions	Positions where impairment on the job presents a substantial risk of death. Employers must identify these positions before accepting applications
Privacy Laws	While Washington employers have broad leeway in conducting drug tests, privacy laws dictate secure storage and disposal of samples, limited information sharing, and potential employee lawsuit risks if mishandling occurs.

Recommended Procedures

Does the state have recommended procedures? It is always recommended to have standardized documentation and training procedures and regular employee evaluations to set clear performance expectations.

While Washington doesn't mandate a formal drug-free workplace program for private employers, they can incentivize participation through the [WDFW Program](#).

State Employee Procedures and Policies [Washington state employees](#) can't work under the influence, but off-duty marijuana use won't affect your application. However, discipline for off-duty use and drug testing rules still apply, so check your agency's specific policies.

Protections for Use Outside Workplace/ Work Hours

Is Washington a "Right to Weed State"? Due to recent legislation, Washington employers generally can't deny job opportunities or fire employees solely based on a drug test result, unless it's for safety-sensitive positions or reveals use of illegal substances during work hours.

More Detailed Information [New Washington Law](#)

State Requirements for Drug & Alcohol Testing Program

Testing policy requirements: [Washington State Drug Testing Laws](#)

Main Requirement: While Washington employers generally have leeway in drug testing practices for safety positions or suspected on the job impairment based on reasonable suspicion and following legal guidelines, they now face limitations when it comes to new hires and off duty activities for most positions. Thanks to recent legislation, employers cannot reject applicants solely based on pre - employment marijuana tests unless the role is safety sensitive or mandates a federal background check