

# The Importance of Test Labs

RELIABLE TESTING NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

As legalized cannabis slowly weaves its way into the tapestry of American social norms, testing labs play an important role. Their efforts as honest intermediaries give credibility to the cannabis industry and reassurance to consumers. By working with growers, manufacturers and retail dispensaries, lab-testing insures safety through the entire production process.

Due to California's rigid test standards, our regulated cannabis products are the safest on the planet. In fact, many Californians who still buy untested cannabis on the grey market are starting to worry more about product safety than lower prices.

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**"We are just now starting to see the effects from smoking products laced with pesticides ten years ago."**

Julia Innocenzi, Customer Relations Director  
2 River Labs

pesticides 10 years ago," said Julia Innocenzi, manager at Sacramento's 2 River Labs, one of California's 27 official cannabis test facilities. As a result, consumers are increasingly turning to licensed dispensaries to buy tested products.

In the seed-to-sale life of a cannabis product, laboratories test for more than THC potency and terpene profiles. Seventeen different cannabinoids are tested at 2 River Labs, including CBD and CBN. Hemp is also tested to guarantee a low THC potency, which must be 0.3% or less to be legal for commercial use.

Tests for contaminants include pesticides, solvents, molds, microbes like salmonella, and heavy metals such as lead, which can leach in from other sources like soil, water or packaging.

In light of the recent illnesses and deaths associated with vape cartridges, 2 River Labs developed a test for the suspected thinning agent Vitamin E acetate, often added to vape oil. In the near future, they hope to initiate long-term tests on their theory that lead, when used in the manufacturing of empty cartridges, will leach into vape oil over time.

"The longer that the concentrate sits in the cartridge, the more lead is going to leach out from the metal," said Michael Roman, 2 River's chief operational officer.



California has the country's toughest test standards for cannabis products.

Laboratories don't just test the final products. Before starting a new crop, growers approach labs to test their soil, water, nutrients and "any building block, anything that product is going to touch," said Matt Bailey, chief executive officer of 2 River Labs. This helps insure that growers won't be surprised with failed test results later when their crops are harvested.

Never smoked tested cannabis? It might be worth a try. "Start smoking stuff that's been tested," said Rachel Giffin, lab supervisor at 2 River, "and maybe that cough you had all your life, you didn't actually have."



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