Known DNA Standards/Buccal Swabs

Known DNA standards must be submitted for all individuals who may have touched the evidence (other than the perpetrator) for elimination purposes.

Examples:

- Victim(s)
- All drivers of a stolen vehicle
- Law enforcement (if evidence was handled without gloves)
- Consensual sex partner (for sex assaults)

Please submit known DNA standards for suspects when possible. Note: We cannot use a profile in CODIS as a known DNA standard.

Collection, Packaging and Submitting

- Gloves and surgical mask should be worn while collecting any touch DNA evidence.
- For touch DNA collection, a single swab is recommended to concentrate the DNA that may be present.
- Package clothing separate from the sex crimes evidence kit for sex assaults.
- Failure to include a detailed and complete DNA Supplemental Form will delay the analysis of your case.

AZDPS Crime Lab
DNA Evidence Guidelines

For more information or questions, please contact

Phoenix Crime Lab: CRCL_DNA@AZDPS.GOV
Tucson Crime Lab: SRCL_DNA@AZDPS.GOV
Flagstaff Crime Lab: NRCL_DNA@AZDPS.GOV

Brochure effective 08/11/17
Evidence likely to be **Valuable** for DNA Testing

*Body Fluids on Evidence*

- Blood
- Semen
- Saliva (on items left behind at the scene or used by the perpetrator)
  - Eating utensils
  - Cigarette butts
  - Gum, straws, toothpicks, toothbrushes
  - Any used beverage container
  - Envelope where seal may have been licked
  - Cell phone (swab mouth area)

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Trace/Touch DNA Samples
(items left behind at the scene by the perpetrator)

These types of touch/trace samples are generally better:

- Clothing/personal items
- Shoes or other footwear
- Tools
- Weapons
- Steering wheel or gear shifter swabs from a stolen vehicle

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Evidence **NOT** likely to be **Valuable** for DNA Testing

Note: Although not valuable as DNA evidence, some of the items listed below may yield valuable latent fingerprint evidence.

**Clothing/Personal Items NOT from the Perpetrator**

Victim’s clothing or belongings touched or momentarily grabbed by the suspect such as clothing, wallets, credit cards, purse straps or keys.

**Surfaces**

Any surface that the suspect temporarily touches that has been exposed to routine contact from the victim and/or the public.

*Examples:*

- Door knobs/handles, safe handles, drawer pulls, locks, cash registers
- Common use areas like counters at a store or bank
- Public areas or ATM
- Smudges on surfaces like windows
- Paper documents like receipts or letters

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**Touch DNA Case Acceptance Guidelines for Property Crimes Cases**

- Touch DNA evidence is limited to items that are foreign to the crime scene, i.e. presumably left behind by the perpetrator such as a tool used to get into a residence.
- Steering wheel and gearshift swabs will be processed from stolen vehicles when foreign items are not present/available.
- Swabs of surfaces or items of evidence which are routinely handled/touched by multiple people will not be processed for DNA.

*Please note: Failure to include a detailed and complete DNA Supplemental Form when submitting evidence to the lab will delay the analysis of your case. If you do not have a DNA Supplemental Form, please contact the laboratory.*

See reverse side for more information