

Touch DNA for cases with Known Suspects

General swabs of **touch** DNA are not useful unless we have specific knowledge of where the perpetrator handled the evidence and **all** reference samples for anyone else who may have handled the evidence.

Examples of evidence not valuable for Touch DNA Clothing/Personal Belongings

Victim clothing/personal items touched or grabbed by the perpetrator such as jackets, wallets, pockets, backpacks, keys, etc.

Surfaces

*Any surface that the perpetrator has **temporarily** touched and has been exposed to routine contact by the victim/public.*

Some examples:

Door knobs/handles

Drawer pulls and safe handles

Swabs of commonly used counters e.g. banks

Swabs of steering wheels, door handles, shifters from vehicles

Paper documents

Fired cartridge cases

Wooden sticks/branches

Currency

Light switch

Dirt

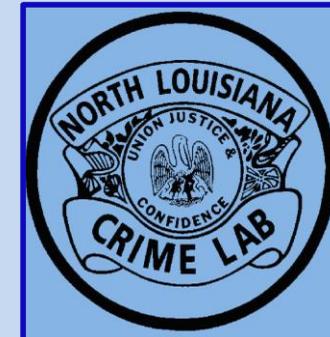
DNA Evidence Gauge

**Good quality DNA –
Very likely to develop a DNA profile**
Blood, Semen (Sexual Assault kits/Condoms), Saliva (Cigarette butts/Gum)

**Shoes
Gloves
Sweat (Clothing)
Hair with roots
Saliva (Beverage containers)
Feces**

**Touch DNA
Vomit
Urine
Hair without a root
Poor quality DNA -
Unlikely to develop a DNA profile**

Guidelines for Collecting, Packaging,
and Submitting DNA Evidence to the
North Louisiana Criminalistics
Laboratory



Contact

1630 Tulane Ave.
Shreveport, LA 71103
(318) 227-2889
Michelle Vrana
mvrana@nlcl.org

Case Acceptance Guidelines

- Known suspect cases: a reference sample **must** be submitted in order for the case to be assigned to an analyst.
- In case the victim's DNA is on the evidence, the victim's reference sample **must** be submitted in order for the case to be assigned to an analyst.
- A suspect's reference previously sent to LA State Police **must** also be submitted to the NLCL with the evidence.
- Cases without required reference samples will be closed. A certified report will be issued stating closure.
- Evidence samples must be clearly tied to the crime in question, and this information should be available upon submission of the evidence.

Recent Changes to Evidence Accepted for Property Cases With No Known Suspect

The following things must be true in order to submit contact evidence:

- The item must have been left at the crime scene or the secondary crime scene.
- This must be documented, preferably in LabFX.
- The item must have been brought to the crime scene by the suspected perpetrator.
- No suspected blood or cigarette butts were collected.

The NLCL will no longer be accepting contact evidence from items native to the crime scene.
Saliva samples are still acceptable.

Packaging Guidelines

- Damp items should be dried before being packaged.
- Items should be packaged in paper bags or envelopes – **NOT PLASTIC!**
- Do not overstuff bags; package items separately.
- Always wear latex gloves when collecting/packaging evidence, and change gloves between items of evidence.
- Do not talk or breathe over evidence
- Clearly label **ALL** packaging with case number, date of collection, and brief description.
- Evidence should be stored either at or below room temperature.
 - PERKS should be refrigerated.

Important

Do not expose evidence to excessive heat.

Educational Resources

- NIJ.gov is a website funded by the DNA Initiative which provides training courses, research, statistics, and links to possible grant funding.
- DNA classes will be held on July 11 and November 7, 2019.

CODIS

- DNA profiles are eligible for CODIS only when associated with a crime.
- Provide information stating the DNA on the evidence is attributed to the **perpetrator**.
- Once a case gets a CODIS hit, a reference sample **must** be submitted for comparison in order to pursue the case.
- Success of CODIS depends on mutual cooperation. Please provide follow-up information on each CODIS hit.

Statistics

- Overall hit rate of 78%.
- 1,557 investigations aided.
- In 2018: 263 profiles entered, 200 hits

LabFX

- Labfx-nlcl.com is a secure website used for communication between the lab and submitting agencies.
- Agencies can monitor a case's progression through the lab.
- Final reports are attached to the exam request.
- To sign up, contact Michelle Vrana.