

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Collecting Standards



10. VCRT Procedures

10.20 Collecting Standards

10.20.1 Scope

It may become necessary to collect standards from the crime scene for further analysis by a Forensic Scientist. These standards can include, but are not limited to, broken glass, carpet fibers, hair, and paint standards.

10.20.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.20.3 Equipment and Supplies

Tweezers
Scalpel or Blades
Packaging materials

10.20.4 Procedure

Victim Hair Standards

It is preferred that victim hair standards are requested to be taken by the medical examiner. This request will be documented in notes.

Paint Standards

It is preferred that evidence believed to be the source of the paint be collected and transported to the laboratory.

For large objects or vehicles that are not easily submitted to the laboratory, collect known samples from an area as close to the damage as possible. If a damaged vehicle is suspect, collect the known paint sample from all damaged areas.

Use a clean blade or scalpel to carve or chip the paint from the surface down to the substrate instead of scraping it off. This ensures that all layers of paint are collected, including any primer material.

When tool marks exist on a damaged object, recover paint samples from areas immediately adjacent to tool marks without mutilating the tool mark.

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division



Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures Collecting Standards

Use a new, clean scalpel or blade for each sample recovered. Fold paper packets containing paint samples and place in an envelope or pill box. Package known paint samples in druggist fold or Petri dish, carefully sealing to prevent loss.

The known paint samples must never be packaged together with evidentiary samples.

Label each sample accordingly indicating:

- Location sample taken from
- Date
- Collector's initials

Do not use tape lifts or other gummed tapes to recover paint samples.

Collection of Fiber Standards

Obtain fiber standards from all possible sources (e.g., suspects, victims, carpeting, etc.). Submit a representative sample of the source. A sufficient quantity should be taken to ensure that each color and type of fiber involved has been sampled.

Package all fiber standards sources separately.

Label each sample accordingly indicating:

- Location sample taken from
- Date
- Collector's initials

Collection of Glass Standards

Collect the glass that is still adhering to the window frame when possible. Collecting glass standards from the ground increases the likelihood of introducing contaminants into the standard.

Vehicle windshields and some structural glass may be double paned, meaning that two different panes of glass are present. Standards must be collected from different areas on both glass panes. Package the standards from each pane separately indicating inside panes and outside panes.

Label each sample accordingly indicating:

- Location sample taken from
- Date
- Collector's initials