

### Where has this shirt been?

#### Materials needed:

- An unwashed article of clothing that has been worn for at least one day
  - Cell phone or camera (optional)
1. Place the article of clothing on a flat surface in your work area.
  2. Prepare to collect trace evidence by washing your hands and putting on the gloves
    - If you have long hair, be sure to tie it up before you put on the gloves to avoid contaminating the evidence.
  3. Follow the procedure to collect trace evidence from the front and back of the article of clothing.
  4. Examine the collected evidence to try to identify the source of each piece of evidence.
    - Are any of the hairs collected consistent with members of your household?

- If you have any pets, did they contribute any of the trace evidence you collected?
  - Are any of the fibers collected consistent with carpets or rugs in your home?
5. Consider the information you've identified about the evidence you collected. Can you determine what locations—within your home and outside—the article of clothing was in during the time it was worn?

### Insta-famous?

- Share your trace evidence photos on Instagram with the hashtag #forensikitTRACE
- Visit <https://forensikit.com/trace-evidence/> for an activity using your body bag.
  - ▶ Share your body bag photos on Instagram with the hashtag #forensikitBODY
- Your photos will be displayed at forensikit.com as examples for other ForensiKit users.

For more trace evidence information, activities and video demos, visit  
<https://forensikit.com/trace-evidence/>

# Trace Evidence Procedure

## To collect evidence

1. Repeatedly press the trace evidence tape over the suspect area.
2. Place the tape in a container with enough water to cover the tape.
3. Allow the tape to dissolve.
  - The tape will dissolve within a minute, leaving a pulpy residue and the trace evidence in the water.
4. Pour the water through a coffee filter.
  - If you don't have a coffee filter, a paper towel will work.
5. Allow the filter to dry completely.
6. Use clean tweezers to collect the trace evidence from the filter.

## To store evidence

- To store hairs or fibers, use clean tweezers to place the evidence on an adhesive lift.
- To store thick items like shards of glass, use clean tweezers to place the evidence in a trace evidence fold.
  - Follow the grooves to form the evidence fold into a packet.
- To store fragile items like insects or insect parts, use clean tweezers to place the evidence in a jar.

## Did You Know?

The body bag was invented during the U.S. Civil War and patented in 1863 by Dr. Thomas Holmes.

Modern investigators can choose from a variety of specialized body bag options.

- Water Body Recovery bags – Made from a mesh material that allows water to flow from the bag. Brightly colored floats are attached for visibility during rescues.
- Heavy Duty bags – Include an extra liner to prevent fluids from leaking. They also have integrated handles that make the bag easier to maneuver in tight quarters and stairwells.
- Bio-Seal bags – Transparent bags that have a seal to prevent leaks and odor.

Crime scene techs use water soluble tape to collect trace evidence such as glass fragments, insects, hairs, and fibers. The tape is pressed on the suspect surface, and then dissolved in water to allow the evidence to be collected.

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