

Biological Evidence Collection Kit

DNA Collection & Preservation

Introduction

The value and defensibility of a laboratory forensic report is dependent in part on evidence collection procedures/techniques and on an unbroken chain of custody. Failure to properly or adequately collect, transport or store biological evidence could compromise evidentiary value.

This kit is designed to provide convenient and organized access to the basic supplies and tools for biological evidence collection.

Materials Supplied

1. Tool box style case
2. Plastic distilled water dropper bottle
3. Black fine tip sharpie pen
4. Polystyrene Vials with Snap Cap
 - a. 55.4 ml (2)
 - b. 73.9 ml (2)
 - c. 110.9 ml (2)
5. Disposable Safety Scalpels, Sterile (4)
Pre-assembled scalpels feature plastic handles and fully retractable stainless steel blades. Blades have a razor-sharp cutting edge for superior cutting and clean incisions. Individually packaged in sealed, peel-apart pouches. Five-year shelf life. Scalpels comply with OSHA directive for the Needle stick Safety and Prevention Act
6. Sterile swabs (2/pack) (10 packs)
7. Swab boxes (20)
8. Coin envelopes (20)
9. Disposable face masks (5)
10. Biohazard contamination labels (20)
11. Forceps (1)
12. Scissors (1)
13. Reporter's Spiral Notebook pad
14. What Every Law Enforcement Officer Should Know About DNA Evidence
15. Evidence labels (80)
16. Flashlight

Materials Required but Not Supplied

1. Chain of Custody forms
2. Evidence bags
3. Evidence tape
4. Sterile gloves

General Precautions for Use

The following criteria are generic in nature. Field investigators should refer to departmental guidelines for detailed evidence collection procedures.

Contamination Control

- Wear gloves and change often, preferably after each sample.
- Use disposable instruments or clean thoroughly before and after each sample.
- Avoid contact with areas that might contain DNA evidence.
- Avoid talking, sneezing, and coughing over evidence.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, and mouth when collecting and packaging evidence.
- Air-dry evidence thoroughly before packaging.
- Place evidence into new paper bags or envelopes, not into plastic bags. Do not use staples.
- Optional control samples: A buccal swab should be taken of the evidence collector. In addition, it is recommended that all individuals that were on the site (e.g. officers, neighbors, other residents or workers) be sampled. These samples do not necessarily need to be processed, but will be available if there is an identified DNA source or if contamination is asserted or suspected.
- Carefully complete the chain of custody, adding details of samples that may affect the analyses such as the surface or material from which it was collected from. For instance concrete can cause PCR inhibition as do many dyes; organic compounds such as solvents used in drug production may affect the analysis, and Clorox or other oxidants destroy DNA.

Transportation and Storage

- Keep the evidence dry and at room temperature.
- Evidence should be secured and sealed in paper bags or envelopes and labeled, and transported in a way that ensures proper identification of where it was found and proper chain of custody.
- Avoid direct sunlight and warmer conditions, such as a room or police car without air

Setting the Standard for Quality DNA Identification



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