



SWABBING GUIDANCE FOR CARTRIDGE CASES & FIREARMS

ISSUED BY: DNA Laboratory, Ohio BCI | 855-BCI-OHIO

BEST PRACTICES FOR SWABBING

- Wear **clean gloves** before collection; **change frequently**.
- Clean collection area if possible.
- Minimize contact with cartridge cases.
- Clean tools between samples.
- Use **tweezers or dowel rods** to handle cartridge cases.
- **Do not talk** while handling evidence.
- Swab **each additional feature** (scope, holster, etc.) separately.



SAMPLE COLLECTION | CARTRIDGE CASES

Single Shooter or Unknown Number of Shooters

One caliber:

- Swab up to 10 cartridge cases with one moistened swab.
- If more than 10, split into equal groups (e.g., 16 = two groups of 8).

Multiple calibers:

- Group by caliber, and swab up to 10 per group.

Unknown Shooter Count or Multiple Shooters

Same caliber, different locations:

- If possible, swab in groups based on location, up to 10 per swab.
- If not, swab each cartridge case separately.

Multiple calibers = number of shooters:

- Group by caliber, swab up to 10 per swab.

Multiple caliber ≠ number of shooters:

- If possible, swab groups of same caliber based on location, up to 10 per swab.
- If not, swab each cartridge case separately.



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SAMPLE COLLECTION BY FIREARM TYPE

When submitting swabs from a pistol, rifle or shotgun that has been fired, also submit swabs of unfired cartridges. For revolvers, swab all cartridges and cartridge cases from the firearm.

PISTOL

- 1 Trigger and interior of trigger guard
- 2 Grip
- 3 Back-slide area
- 4 Buttons/levers (slide release, mag release, safety)
- 5 Front sight area
- 6 Base and 7 body of magazine
- 8 Cartridges



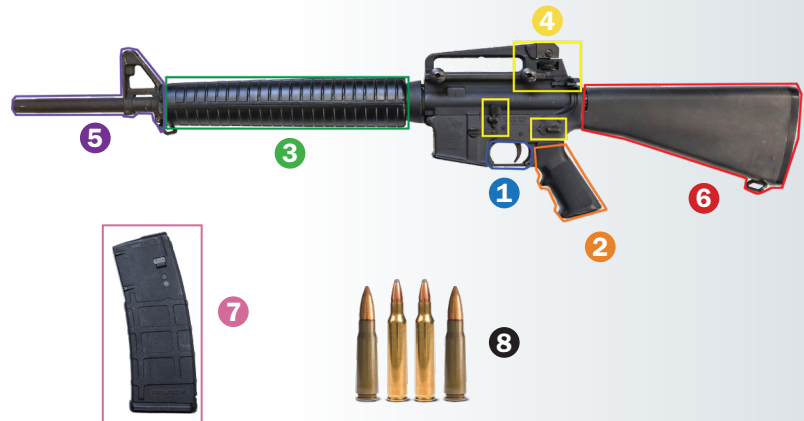
REVOLVER

- 1 Trigger and interior of trigger guard
- 2 Grip
- 3 Cylinder and buttons/levers (safety, hammer, ejector rod)
- 4 Front sight area
- 5 Cartridge cases (if still in firearm)
- 6 Cartridges (only if firearm was fired)



RIFLE

- 1 Trigger and interior of trigger guard
- 2 Grip
- 3 Forend
- 4 Buttons/levers (mag release, safety, bolt release, charging handle)
- 5 Barrel
- 6 Stock
- 7 Entire magazine
- 8 Cartridges



PUMP SHOTGUN

- 1 Trigger and interior of trigger guard
- 2 Grip
- 3 Forend/pump
Bolt lever (if bolt action)
- 4 Buttons/levers
- 5 Front sight area/barrel
- 6 Shot shells



To watch a video on the process, scan the QR code



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