

Woods and Sawdust

Woods Product Lab. Wood slivers and chips from doors, siding, or broken window frames, frequently adhere to suspect's clothing and may be related to their source. Large items of wood such as boards, logs, trees, or blocking may also be identified by appropriate Laboratory examination and comparison.

Sawdust is generally composed of many types of species, samples from both the suspect and the scene may provide valuable information. Sawdust on shoes, in trouser cuffs, and in pockets of suspects who have recently left a crime scene such as a butcher shop, lumber yard, construction site, or similar location may prove useful during investigation.

Caution: Observe laws relating to the collection of evidence.

Procedure

Damaged wood found at burglary sites should be submitted for comparison with recovered wood fragments from suspect's clothing and/or tools used to commit the crime. All clothing (including shoes) worn by the suspect at the time of the crime should be submitted to the Laboratory. See [Chapter 22 - Clothing and Fabrics](#) for packaging procedures. If there are wood chips or sawdust at the scene, take several samples from different areas, package separately, mark and seal. Samples can be placed in small glass bottles or vials. Avoid use of envelopes since wood fragments may be damaged during transit if not protected in a rigid container. Package, seal and label the container. See [Chapter 18 - Glass](#).

The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory does not identify wood type. Physical matches are possible at the Laboratory (see Chapter 25 Fracture and Tear Matches).

Study and research on woods are conducted by the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory reportedly working to promote healthy forests through the intelligent use of wood. Located in Madison, Wisconsin with Twitter account Forest Products Lab@fsWoodLab, the website is <https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>.

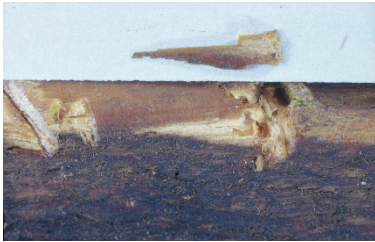


Fig. 24-1 Fracture match of a wood fragment to a piece of wood used as a bludgeon.



Fig. 24-2 Fracture Match of an axe.