

## **Assessment of Dactyloscopic Impressions on Duct Tape<sup>1</sup>**

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Adhesive tape is sometimes collected as evidence in crime scene investigations. In addition to trace evidence, tape also provides an excellent substrate for latent prints on adhesive and non-adhesive surfaces. In this study, 300 donor latent prints were positioned on duct tape. Fifty samples, twenty-five on the adhesive side and twenty five on the non-adhesive side of the tape, were stored at ~ 22°C. (72°F) for 24 hours and then the tape samples were separated by gradual force and processed for latent impressions. A second set of fifty samples were stored in a freezer at -10°C (14°F) for 24 hours and processed for latent impressions. A third set of fifty samples were stored at ~ 22°C. (72°F) for 24 hours and then separated with un-du®, an adhesive remover containing heptane, and processed for latent impressions. All samples were processed with WetWop™ and evaluated to determine the more superior method of separating the duct tape for purposes of collecting latent impressions.

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