

**Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory
Strangulation Forensic Evidence Kit (SKIT) Collection Instructions**

GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A strangulation kit is intended to be used to collect strangulation evidence when no sexual assault has occurred. If strangulation occurred during a sexual assault, samples should be collected using a sexual assault forensic evidence (SAFE) kit.

Gloves should always be worn when collecting or handling the contents of a strangulation kit.

SWABS—should be collected from the appropriate areas, using the double swab technique air-dried, and packaged in a clean envelope.

DOUBLE SWAB TECHNIQUE:

1. Wet a single sterile swab with water.
2. Thoroughly swab, *with pressure*, the area of interest.
3. While area is still wet thoroughly re-swab, *with pressure*, the same area with a dry sterile swab.
4. Label the swabs directly or with label/tape flags (“wet” and “dry”).

ENVELOPES—should be labeled and sealed with patient labels or evidence tape. Never seal an envelope by licking it. Each container of evidence collected in addition to the strangulation kit (exam paper, underwear or other clothing, etc.) should be labeled with the patient’s name, description of the evidence, date collected, and your initials.

If additional supplies are needed, evidence can be collected using your own sterile cotton swabs and envelopes.

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Collect four oral swabs.

- **Always collect a set of oral swabs because the laboratory will use these as a DNA standard.**
- Swab the inside of the mouth with four sterile cotton swabs.
- Air-dry the swabs and place in the provided envelope.

Step 2: Collect two swabs from the neck area

- Use the double swab technique as described above.
- Air-dry the swabs and place in an envelope.

Step 3: Collect any additional evidence.

- **Document on the swab envelope the collection location and purpose of collection**
- **Trace evidence:** If loose hairs are observed in an unexpected location on the patient’s body they should be collected and placed in an envelope. Mark the envelope with the contents and location from where the evidence was collected.

Step 4: Complete forms and seal evidence.

- Fill out the *Forensic Laboratory Strangulation Information Form*.
- **Make a copy of the completed 12-page Strangulation Kit Form and hand to the receiving law enforcement officer along with the completed kit.**
- Seal the kit with the provided red evidence tape and initial across the seal.

Questions? Call the Oregon SANE Coordinator OR

During business hours call the Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory for your area:

- Bend (541) 388-6150 • Central Point (541) 776-6118
- Pendleton (541) 276-1816 • Portland Metro (971) 673-8230 • Springfield (541) 726-2590

After business hours call the on-call Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory Supervisor:

- OSP Dispatch • Northern Oregon (503) 731-3030 • Southern Oregon (541) 776-6111