

Gunshot Residue and Distance Determinations

Firearm and Toolmark Section

(207) 624-7100 / <https://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/investigation-traffic/crime-lab/lab-services>

What is Gunshot Residue (GSR)

- Residues resulting from the discharge of a firearm.
 - These residues may be present on the hands of the shooter.
- The Crime Laboratory **does NOT test** for gunshot residues.
- Items of evidence requiring this testing can be swabbed and submitted externally.
 - Collection Kits are available in the evidence receiving section of the Crime Laboratory.

Distance Testing

- Determination of the distance between the muzzle and the target at the time of firing.
- Wet or bloody clothing items must be air dried and packaged separately.
- If the item must be folded, place a piece of brown paper between the layers to prevent cross-contamination.
- Collect extra ammunition if possible.



Checklist:

- **Firearm**
- **Extra Ammunition (Same Caliber, Manufacturer, and Load as used during the incident)**
- **Clothing**

OCME

- Distance testing can **NOT** be done on skin.
- If the Gunshot Wound is located on the head or skin (no clothing) contact the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

Scene

- If testing for gunshot residue on walls, doors, or other large objects, please contact the Crime Laboratory for assistance.