

Tools and Tool Marks

Firearm and Toolmark Section

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

What is a tool?

- An object used to gain a mechanical advantage.

What is a tool mark?

- An area of damage on an object as a result of a tool.

What is a tool mark examination?

- Comparison of the suspect tool mark and test impressions created by a known tool to determine if the tool marks were created by the specific tool.

Packaging and Labeling

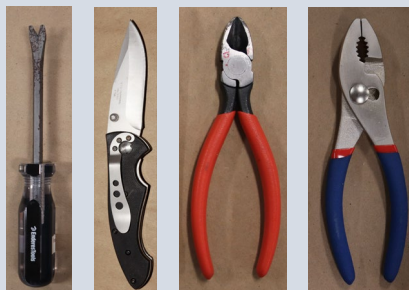
- Place the entire object, cast of the object, or cut area, in a box of appropriate size
- Do NOT package unknown tool marks in the same box as the tool
 - Ex) One (1) door hinge with tool mark taken from Jane Doe's front door
- Photograph the tool prior to handling. Note:
 - Location found (including orientation within the scene)
 - Condition
- Be mindful of DNA or Latent Print Evidence.

Checklist:

A. Tool (entire object(s))

B. Item cutting(s)

C. Item cast(s)



Label ends cut by evidence collection officer to easily distinguish between areas cut from incident