Forensic scientists can use a *shedder test* to determine the average amount of skin cells shed from leaving a fingerprint. This information is used to determine the likelihood that someone is to leave touch DNA from contacting an object.

Generally speaking, touch DNA is more difficult to find because of the many variables involved with its transfer and retention, such as how much oil a particular fingerprint will leave, or how many skin cells will be shed in that fingerprint. Furthermore, the length

Chart 1: Display of amounts of shogun shells both fired and fired as well as amount verified for containing DNA displayed per participant

Conclusion

Similar studies have been conducted with different variables using different firearms as well as different

showed that pistol bullet casings made of brass and nickel plated yielded results ranging from 13% to 36% DNA recovered with a similar procedure. The results of this experiment yielded approximately 18.18% DNA recovery. In conclusion, it is possible to recover touch DNA from fired and unfired shotgun shells with a similar rate of success seen for bullet cartridge cases made of nickel and brass. While the percentage of recovery is relatively low, it is evidence that touch DNA can be recovered from both fired and unfired shotgun shells.

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