

Trace and Transfer Evidence

Criminal Justice

Fibres, glass, paint and residues: mostly class evidence, and why that matters.

Class features narrow a population; they rarely single out a source.

Evidence	What it can show	Caution
Fibres	Consistent with a source	Extremely common
Glass	Refractive index comparison	Class evidence only
Paint	Layer sequence comparison	Depends on sample size
Soil	Comparison of composition	Varies over short distances
Firearm residue	Particles consistent with firing	Transfer and background risk

Educational reference. Most trace evidence can exclude a source and can support a link, but rarely identifies one source.