

Evidential Value of Textile Fiber — Transfer and Persistence of Fibers

REFERENCE: Siegel JA: Evidential value of textile fiber — transfer and persistence of fibers; *Forensic Sci Rev* 9:81–96; 1997.

ABSTRACT: Fibers comprise probably the most common form of trace evidence in forensic science today. They occur in perhaps one-quarter of all cases that involve trace evidence and a large majority of crime laboratories routinely characterize textile fibers. Although a great deal of research has been done on how to best characterize and compare fibers, relatively little time has been spent on determining the significance of fiber evidence. This article presents a summary of the studies of fiber transfer and persistence and determination of the significance of fiber evidence. This accumulated research and analysis will enable fiber examiners to better interpret evidence in cases where foreign fibers have been transferred during contact between victims and perpetrators of crimes.

Key Words: Fibers, persistence, significance of evidence, textile, trace evidence, transfer.
