
TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Adhesive Tape Release Agent

Catalog No. TRA20

ADHESIVE TAPE RELEASE AGENT

Adhesive tapes are common pieces of physical evidence at crime scenes, but it is often very difficult to process the adhesive side for latent prints because the tape is tangled and/or stuck together. No. TRA20 Adhesive Tape Release Agent allows separation of the adhesive surfaces commonly found on tapes and labels without destroying latent fingerprints that may be present.

PRECAUTIONS

- Before using this product, consult the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) found on our website at www.sirchie.com/support.
- Use only with adequate ventilation—contains Chloroform. Keep cap tightly closed when not in use. If adequate ventilation is not available, wear a respirator equipped with organic vapor cartridges.



- Vapors are extremely flammable. Do not use near sparks or open flame.
- Wear disposable latex gloves to avoid contaminating the surface to be tested. Use tweezers where applicable.
- Perform tests on non-evidential materials to gain familiarity with the process.

PROCEDURE

1. Locate one end of the tape. If possible, use tweezers to grasp a piece of the tape near this end.
2. Apply one drop of release agent to the edge of the tape at the intersection. Tilt the tape to allow the release agent to flow along the full length of the intersection. Very slowly and with only slight, even pressure, pull the tape apart.
3. Watch for development of ligatures (adhesive strands) between the two surfaces being separated. When these structures appear, apply additional release agent to avoid damaging the adhesive surface.
4. Apply one additional drop of release agent at one edge of the tape, allowing the drop to flow along the intersection and resume separation.
5. Repeat this procedure until the surfaces have been fully separated.
6. Allow sufficient time for the release agent to evaporate before attempting to recover any latent fingerprints.
7. Process the tape with Adhesive Side Powder.



TRA20 release agent is applied to adhesive side of tape.



After applying TRA20 to duct tape, latent prints are revealed when processed with ASD7D Dark Adhesive Side Powder.

Special Notes

- Recently separated surfaces are very sticky. **DO NOT TOUCH!** Do not allow dust or other contaminants to come into contact with these surfaces. Rinsing in clean water will sometimes reduce tackiness. Store the separated tape in a protected environment until all traces of release have evaporated—overnight if possible—but for at least 15 minutes.
- Release agent disturbs the adhesive surface at the point where a drop is applied, and in a band where the drop flows across the tape. Latent prints subsequently developed will show a band of lighter development at these points. To lessen the prominence of these bands, allow release agent to evaporate overnight. Applying a drop near the edge of the tape causes lightening of the detail. If your experience shows that vital information more often occurs along the edge of the tape, change the point of application accordingly.
- Apply release agent one drop at a time and only as needed.

- Apply release agent only where necessary. Do not apply release agent to adhesive surfaces that are not stuck together.
- Do not immerse tape in release agent.



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