Firearm evidence can be obtained from the crime scene, the victim, the culprit and from the firearm and ammunition.

The previously fired cartridges and bullets recovered from the possession of culprits are useful in cases where culprit has damaged or tampered the firearm.

Whenever a firearm is recovered from a scene of crime, the following particulars must be noted:

* The type and make
* Serial number
* Caliber and any other information useful for the expert.

Following precautions should be observed while handling, collecting and packaging of the clue materials:

* While handling a crime weapon found at crime scene, do not put any object inside barrel, which may create scratches inside of the barrel.
* Examine weapon for latent fingerprints and photograph the weapon and identify with a tag bearing the IO’s identification and serial number of the weapon.
* Unload the weapon and note down how many cartridges/cartridge cases are found in the magazine and note down the inscriptions on the cases.
* The weapons and ammunitions are packaged in a box protected with cotton.
* All swabs are packed separately in glass tubes or vials.
* Blood stained bullets are air dried and then packaged in paper protected with cotton.
* While packing a **firearm**, the muzzle end of the barrel should be capped. In case of revolvers, opening on front and rear sides of the chamber should be plugged with clean clothes. The firearm is separately wrapped with paper, tied with thread and kept in a wooden box with packing material such as cotton. Send it through special messenger.
* **Live cartridges** should be placed in small clasp type envelopes or in cellophane papers individually covered. Put them in cardboard box with sufficient packing materials. Send them through a special messenger. Cartridges recovered from the weapon should be packed separately.
* **Fired bullets** should be placed in small clasp type envelopes or in cellophane papers individually covered. Put them in cardboard box with sufficient packing materials. Send them through a special messenger.
* **Bullets from dead bodies:** its position should be marked by X-rays, and then taken out with a rubber tipped forceps, followed by drying in air and packing in paper and cotton.
* **Bullets in furniture, wall, wood, floor, e.t.c.,**: extract them by using rubber tipped forceps. If not possible, the entire object may be cut and sent to the laboratory.
* **Discharged residues** deposited on hands of shooter may be taken by casting a molten wax layer slowly on hands. The cast is peeled off and placed between two flexible plastic sheets which are then fixed with adhesive tape and then packed in hardboard box and sent to the laboratory. Also hands of suspect are swabbed, kept in glass vials, corked, packaged and sent to the laboratory.
* **Bullet holes:** the original article bearing the bullet holes, dent or other marks should be sent to the laboratory. If not possible, then the portion containing bullet hole may be cut and sent or a cast may be prepared and sent.
* **Clothes:** the clothes are dried before packing if they are wet and the powder patterns and projectile holes, if any, are protected with cellophane sheet.
* **Tissues:** for examining traces of lead, tissues surrounding gunshot injuries are packaged in lead free containers.