

WET DROPS EXPERIMENT

Can wet drops (any size) stay wet on a drinking glass (or DVD cover) for more than 16 hours?



Timeline:

16 Mar 2005

07:30 - 8:00: Accused leaves apartment - claims not to have returned

16:00 - 18:00: Murder of Inge Lotz

22:30: Discovery of body

17 Mar 2005

10:00: Commencement of dusting and lifting

Timelapse from murder to dusting:
±16 hours

We put two drinking glasses and a DVD cover on a counter with the aim to spatter both with the same water and to see how long the drops on both will stay wet.

Note time: 16h05 – this is moments before spattering. Everything still dry.

Climatic conditions: Clear spring day with temperature of about 20 degrees Celcius (68 °F). Windows and doors closed. No breeze.

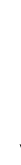
Water: Use normal cold tap water.



Spatter the drinking glasses and the DVD with fingers – same water – in same flicking of fingers action. Note drops all over, even on counter and on clock. Time 16h06.



No wet drops anywhere after 45 minutes
(except some still on DVD cover)



Long glass after 45 minutes (16h52)

Dry marks of drops clearly visible on glass



Drops on counter and clock also dry by now

Short glass when spattered (16h06)



Drops on counter and clock also dry by now

No wet drops anywhere after 45 minutes
(except still on DVD cover)



Short glass after 45 minutes (16h52)

No wet drops on glass whatsoever





After 45 minutes only 3 big drops on DVD cover remaining



45 minutes later





Under two hours (107 mins) no wet drops on either the glasses or the DVD cover

Note big dried drops on DVD cover. Even drops of this size dried in less than 2 hours.

Conclusion: All wet (water) drops deposited on either a drinking glass or a DVD cover before the murder would have been dry at the time Inge's body was found. The drops were deposited on whichever surface by whichever way much closer to the time of dusting. Spillage would not leave only two drops on the side of a glass, and the source thereof is most likely brow sweat. Or something like mayonnaise which could have been deposited earlier, and which is not subject to quick drying.



When spattered 16h06 ↑

After 45 minutes there were no signs of wet drops on any of the two drinking glasses. Thus also not after 107 minutes. None.

Especially considering the climatic conditions of the day of the murder, it can safely be deduced that any wet drops on a drinking glass would not have stayed wet for more than 16 hours. Much less 26 hours after the accused supposedly last could have handled it.

(Similar test with water in the glasses yielded similar results.)