

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Collecting Elimination Prints



10. VCRT Procedures

10.19 Collecting Elimination Prints

10.19.1 Scope

Many times people have legitimately walked or driven into a crime scene. These people may include first responders, family members, emergency medical personnel, Coroners or Medical Examiners, etc. These people may leave their shoe prints, fingerprints, and tire tracks at the scene and it may be difficult to distinguish evidentiary impressions from those that are introduced into the scene by investigation personnel. Standards of fingerprints, shoe prints, and tire prints can also be taken from a suspect or vehicle.

10.19.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.19.3 Chemicals and Reagents

Petroleum Jelly

10.19.4 Equipment and Supplies

Inkless Pads and Donor paper
Paper
Lifting Tape
Standard Fingerprint ink
Tweezers
Scalpel or Blades
Packaging materials

10.19.5 Procedure

Known Fingerprint Standards

1. Clean hands of any foreign matter.
2. Apply ink to fingers/palms.
3. Apply inked fingers/palms to clean paper or card.
4. Allow ink to dry.

Label each print accordingly indicating:

- Name of person
- Finger or palm identification

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- Date
- Collector's initials

Deceased Fingerprint Standards

It is preferred that victim hair and fingerprints are requested to be taken by the medical examiner. This request will be documented in notes.

1. Clean hands of any foreign matter.
2. Apply powder or ink to fingers/palms.
3. Place lifting tape on powdered or inked areas.
4. Lift tape off and then place tape on inside of clear sheet protector.

Label each print accordingly indicating:

- Name of person
- Finger or palm identification
- Date
- Collector's initials

Elimination Shoe Print

Elimination shoe prints may be collected in any one of the following of ways:

1. Inkless Pad
 - Place the sole of the shoe on the pad
 - Then place the shoe tread on the treated donor paper
 - The standard print can be photographed, if needed
2. Ink
 - Using standard fingerprint ink, apply the proper amount of ink to the entire tread surface of the shoe
 - Transfer the inked print to a suitable background (white paper, clear acetate, etc.)
3. Fingerprint Powder
 - Powder the entire tread design with a contrasting colored powder using a fingerprint brush
 - Transfer the powder print using lifting tape and applying to clear acetate or a contrasting background
 - The standard print can be photographed, if needed

Mark elimination prints appropriately to indicate their source and include the initials of the VCRT member making the print.

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Tire Test Impressions

When there is tire impression at a crime scene and a known vehicle is present, a photograph can be taken of the tire tread designs for a possible visual elimination of that vehicle with the impressions. However, if elimination is not possible then a test impression should be made refer to VCRT 10.25.5 Examination of a Vehicle for Tire Test Impressions procedure.