

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Gelatin Lifter Procedure



10.24 Gelatin Lifters

10.24.1 Purpose

Gelatin lifters are used for the lifting of dust and residue impressions, wet origin impressions, as well as impressions developed with fingerprint powder. This procedure provides general guidelines in the collection of impression evidence using gelatin lifters.

10.24.2 Equipment and Reagents

Gelatin lifters (white or black)

10.24.3 Procedure

10.24.3.1 Comparison photographs should be made before collection with a gelatin lifter is attempted (see VCRT 10.34 Comparison Photography for additional information).

10.24.3.2 A gelatin lifter should be chosen that is large enough to completely cover the impression and consists of a background that will be contrasting in color (e.g., black lifters should be used with light colored powder and residue impressions and white lifters should be used with impressions enhanced with black/dark colored powders).

10.24.3.3 Remove the protective cover sheet and curl the gelatin lifter above the impression and starting in the center, allow the opposite ends to roll down across the impression.

10.24.3.4 Press firmly down the back of the gelatin lifter making sure that it makes contact with the entire impression.

10.24.3.5 Label the back of the gelatin lifter with the following information:

- Initials of person making the lift
- Date and time
- Marker number or identifier
- Location and/or orientation of lift to a reference

10.24.3.6 Pull up the gelatin lift and replace the protective cover sheet.

10.24.3.7 Properly package, seal, and label the evidence.