

**TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
*Forensic Services Division*

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Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures  
Collecting Paint Evidence

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**10. VCRT Procedures**

**10.27 Collecting Paint Evidence**

**10.27.1 Scope**

This procedure provides general guidelines in the collection of paint evidence.

**10.27.2 Definitions**

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

**10.27.3 Chemicals and Reagents**

None

**10.27.4 Equipment and Supplies**

Razor blades  
Razor blade holder  
Scalpel/blades  
Packaging materials

**10.27.5 Procedure**

DO NOT lift or stick small paint particles onto adhesive tape.

Do not place small paint particles in a paper envelope unless protected in a paper fold.

When paint is transferred onto large or immovable objects, the paint should be scraped as to collect as much of the transfer as possible. These scrapings should be collected in a druggist fold and properly labeled.

In situations where paint is transferred onto small or moveable object place the entire object into an appropriate container for collection.

Scraping is the preferred technique in recovering small paint samples from items too large to transport to the Laboratory. Larger paint samples may be recovered using tweezers. Tools and smaller items possibly containing paint transfers should be transported to the Laboratory.

Recover, package, and seal all paint samples separately.

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Packaging

It is preferred that small pieces of paint are packaged in the druggist fold with all edges sealed with tape.

Clearly mark the outside packaging as to the location and description of the evidence.