

VOLUME CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION



Good crime scene preservation means more forensic evidence and increased detections.

Fingerprints

- Preserve any broken glass or items found outside point of entry ensuring minimal handling of the item.
- If windows or points of entry need boarding up, ensure this is done from the outside.
- Smaller items for fingerprinting can be carefully put to one side. Bigger items can be examined insitu.
- Items left by suspect should be preserved.

DNA

- Modern DNA techniques are very sensitive.
- Do not breath, cough, sneeze or handle indiscriminately, any item viewed as a potential source of suspect DNA.
- DNA can be present on items used by offenders at scenes.

Footwear marks

- If found on glass outside, move inside (tell SOCO you moved it).
- If on paper on floor, pick it up carefully and leave safe for SOCO.
- Take care if there are no apparent footmarks. They may not be visible.

Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) / Volume Crime Scene Examiners (VCSE)

- SOCO/VCSE will not attend every theft from vehicle. Certain conditions need to be met regarding safety and the likelihood of evidence being present.
- Scene examiners cannot give an estimated time of arrival for when they will attend, as this is dependant on operational commitments.

Health and safety

- Remember - preserving glass and body fluids have risks associated with them. Consider the risks to yourself and others and respond accordingly.