

Advice on how to report, protect and preserve crime scenes



If you have had the unfortunate experience of becoming a victim of burglary, it is important that you follow these steps to preserve the crime scene until Police attend or inform you otherwise. Following these steps may assist the Police in acquiring some very important forensic evidence.

Tips to consider

- **Telephone the Police** immediately on 101 or in case of an emergency 999.
- **Do not touch anything**, especially near the point of entry or items that you believe may have been touched by the offenders.
- **If you suspect the offender is still inside the property do not enter**, advise the Police of this when you ring. Confronting the offender can place you in immediate danger. Seek refuge at a neighbours house.
- If you **find something** that you suspect may have been used in the burglary as it was not there previously, point this out to Police.
- **Preserving evidence is vital**. If the item is outside cover the item with a box or something similar to shield it from the elements until Police arrive, do not touch the item. If you observe blood try to cover this without touching it.
- **Remember not all items have forensic value**. Police are professionally trained to know what items can be used to obtain forensic evidence, do not be upset if a particular item that you think may contain forensic value, is dismissed by Police. The most common types of forensic evidence found at crime scenes are, fingerprints, blood or DNA
- **Be Careful if you enter the property**. Be aware not to touch anything, you never know what potential evidence the offender has left behind. If it is practical wait at a neighbours house until Police arrive.