Developing Prints
Fingerprints

- Visible prints are made after coming in contact with colored material such as blood, paint, grease, or ink.

- Plastic prints are ridge impressions left on a soft material such as putty, wax, soap, or dust.
Fingerprints

*Latent prints* (invisible prints) are impressions caused by the transfer of body perspiration or oils present on the finger to the surface of an object.

Latent prints must be developed or made visible.
Dusting

Appropriate Surface:
- Ridged/non-porous such as glass, plastic, or metal

Theory:
- Dust will adhere to sweat & oils left behind
Cover Surface With Dust
Remove Excess Dust

Brush or Blow
Use Tape to Lift the Print
Place Print on a Card
Iodine Fuming

Appropriate Surface:
– porous and non-porous such as paper, index cards, magazines, and cardboard.

Theory:
– Sweat and oil will absorb iodine vapors
Place the Object in an Enclosed Container with Iodine Crystals
Print Should Develop in a Few Minutes
Ninhydrin

Appropriate Surface:
- porous such as paper, tissue, and clothing

Theory:
- ninhydrin reacts with amino acids to form a purple compound
Soak Suspected Surface with Ninhydrin Solution & Allow to Dry
Print Should Develop Within 24 Hours
Silver Nitrate & UV-Light

Appropriate Surface:
- porous such as paper or drywall

Theory:
- When exposed to ultra-violet (UV) light, silver nitrate reacts with the salt in sweat to form a blackish-brown compound
Spray Surface With Silver Nitrate Solution
Expose to UV-Light
Print Should Develop in 5-10 Minutes
Other Methods

In recent years, there has been much advancement in the area of print developing. Advanced brushes and new chemical procedures make it possible to develop prints on a larger variety of surfaces.

There are over a hundred different methods used to develop fingerprints, depending on the surface being examined.