

## Types of Exams Offered

### Lifts/Digital Images

- ◇ Lifts/digital images generated by the requesting agency are analyzed by an examiner.
- ◇ Submit victim and suspect exemplars (or include date of birth/SID numbers) for comparison.
- ◇ Suitable, unidentified latent prints are searched against known exemplars in the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS).
- ◇ As appropriate, impressions are searched against the Western Identification Network (which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) and the FBI's database.
- ◇ Unidentified latent prints are registered into the appropriate database.
- ◇ Known exemplars submitted into the ABIS database are automatically searched against the registered latent prints.

### Processing

- ◇ Some of the surfaces that can be processed in the laboratory include, but are not limited to:
  - ◇ Paper, cardboard, plastic, firearms, metal, and tape.
- ◇ Developed impressions will be photographed and/or lifted for preservation.
- ◇ Preserved impressions are then analyzed.
- ◇ Generated lifts and digital images will be returned to the submitting agency.



The Olympia Crime Laboratory services the counties shaded in blue.  
The Spokane Crime Laboratory services the counties shaded in green.



Free latent print processing training is available for law enforcement agencies. Contact your servicing laboratory for more information.

**Olympia Crime Laboratory**  
3310 Capitol Boulevard  
PO Box 42608  
Olympia, WA 98512/98504-2608  
Phone: (360) 596-4525

**Spokane Crime Laboratory**  
580 West 7th Street  
Cheney, WA 99004  
Phone: (509) 625-5401



## Forensic Latent Print Analysis

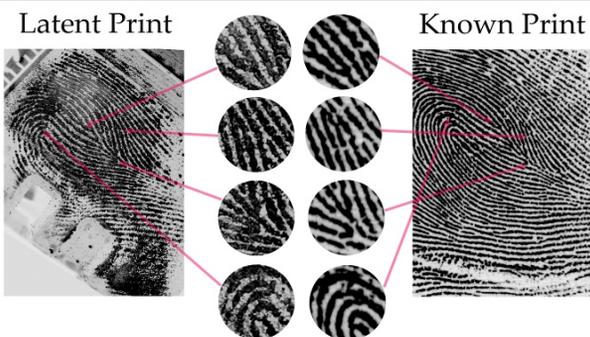


## Latent Prints Overview

A latent print is a general term used to describe the friction ridge skin impression that is left on an object. A true latent print usually needs some sort of processing (powder or chemicals) to be made visible. The term “latent print” is generally used to describe an impression left by chance at a crime scene.

Latent prints are analyzed to determine if they are suitable to be compared to exemplars. During comparison, similarities and differences are noted and evaluated. A conclusion of identification, exclusion, or inconclusive is reached.

Analyses of evidence by the Washington State Patrol Latent Prints Sections are available to all law enforcement agencies in the state.



## Steps for a Laboratory Analysis

- ◇ Complete a Request for Laboratory Examination Form.  
([http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/crimelab/request\\_for\\_laboratory\\_examination.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/crimelab/request_for_laboratory_examination.pdf))
- ◇ All lifts can be submitted as one item (except for clandestine laboratory cases\*).
- ◇ Exemplars are treated as evidence by the Latent Prints Sections and should be properly sealed and labeled with a unique identifier.
- ◇ Items submitted for processing in the laboratory\*:
  - ◇ Do not use packing materials
  - ◇ Do not wrap/package too tightly
  - ◇ Do not package too many items together
  - ◇ Package fragile evidence carefully
  - ◇ When practical, remove liquid from containers and air dry before packaging
- ◇ Do not place the Request for Laboratory Examination Form inside sealed evidence.

*The laboratory will coordinate the analyses by multiple sections if multiple exam codes are marked on the Request for Laboratory Examination Form.*

**\*For questions on submitting evidence, please refer to the Forensic Services Guide at**

[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/bureau/forensic\\_services\\_guide.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/docs/bureau/forensic_services_guide.pdf)

## Latent Prints Evidence Tips

- ◇ Always wear gloves when handling evidence that will be submitted for latent print analysis; handle evidence as little as possible.
- ◇ While making a lift, try to achieve perfect contact by minimizing bubbles and wrinkles before removing the tape from the object and also when placing the tape on the lift.
- ◇ On the lift card, document the following:
  - ◇ Case number and date
  - ◇ Initials
  - ◇ Unique identifier
  - ◇ Location of the lift
  - ◇ Drawing with orientation arrows
- ◇ Take properly exposed and focused photographs of latent prints with the highest image quality available. The camera lens should be parallel to the surface. Include a scale in the photograph.

## Questions ?

**Don Brannan**  
**Olympia Crime Laboratory**  
**Phone: (360) 596-4502**  
**Email: donald.brannan@wsp.wa.gov**

**Brett Bishop**  
**Spokane Crime Laboratory**  
**Phone: (509) 625-5423**  
**Email: brett.bishop@wsp.wa.gov**