

Safer Together
Protecting evidence after a crime

Being a victim of crime can be stressful, and it may not be clear what to do next. While you are waiting for Scenes of Crime (SOC), there are simple things you can do to help protect possible evidence and avoid accidentally disturbing the scene.

What to do first

Report the crime.
Call **Triple Zero (000)** if someone is in danger or a crime is happening now. If there is no active threat, report crime to Policelink online or by calling **131 444**.

Stay safe.
Do not enter if an offender may still be inside and always follow police instructions.

Keep the scene undisturbed.
Avoid touching, moving or cleaning anything.

Notice unfamiliar items.
Tools, clothing or other objects may hold useful evidence.

Leave items where they are
Tools, clothing or other objects left behind during the offence may hold useful evidence. **Avoid touching, moving or cleaning these items.**

Protect potential evidence

- Avoid cleaning before SOC arrives – an undisturbed scene gives SOC the best chance of finding fingerprints or other evidence.
- If you must clean or move something – photograph it first, wear gloves and handle it as little as possible. Fingerprints can be easily wiped away.
- Do not touch blood or suspected bloodstains.
- Your safety comes first – take care around broken glass and hazardous objects.

Check CCTV early

- Review and save relevant footage as soon as possible, including entry points, movements and places touched.
- If needed, ask a trusted person or your CCTV installer to help.

Where fingerprints may be found

Flat, clean surfaces and items handled or moved by the offender may provide the best chance of recovering fingerprints.

When examinations are conducted.
SOC examinations are preferably conducted during daylight hours, when fingerprints are easier to locate and assess.

If evidence cannot be recovered

Sometimes evidence cannot be recovered.
Sometimes evidence, including fingerprints, may not be found or may not contain enough detail for comparison. A SOC officer can explain why this may occur.

Your report still matters.
You should always report crime. Police use a range of techniques to gather evidence and investigate offences.

Reporting crimes

If a crime is happening now, call **Triple Zero (000).**

If not, think Policelink – call **131 444** or visit **police.qld.gov.au/reporting**

To report information anonymously, call Crime Stoppers Queensland on **1800 333 000** or visit **crimestoppersqld.com.au**

Remember, Policelink automatically notifies SOC after your report is made and the team will attend as soon as possible. You do not need to contact SOC separately.

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