



## Dusting for Fingerprints

Hard surfaces often show fingerprints when dusted with a very fine powder.

### What You Need:

- Glass jar (or other smooth, flat object)
- Fingerprint powder or any fine powder (such as cocoa powder)
- Fingerprint brush (or any small brush with very soft bristles)
- Clear tape

### What You Do:

1. Wear gloves while handling the glass jar until you are ready to leave fingerprints on the jar.
2. Rub your right thumb on your scalp; this will ensure that you have oil on your thumb.
3. Touch the glass jar with your right thumb to leave prints.
4. Sprinkle a little bit of powder on the glass jar. Then gently swipe off the excess powder with the soft brush, being careful to leave the fingerprint intact. This may take some practice to get right.
5. Stick a piece of clear tape over the fingerprint firmly, and then lift it up; the print should adhere to the tape. You can then stick it to the Fingerprint Analysis paper (on the “latent” side) to maintain a record of the print.

### What Happened:

Oils from your finger left an impression of your prints on the glass jar. When you brushed the powder off the smooth surface, some of it stuck to the oils, allowing you to see the patterns.

