



How to Create a Scent Article

Each person has their own unique scent, even identical twins and each person's scent changes as they age or take new medications. These instructions will step you through how to make a scent article for a search dog, in the event your loved one goes missing. Make sure to follow all the steps!

If possible have the person who is making the scent article handle all the objects; if not possible, please wear gloves while helping them to prevent contamination.

Here are two ways to make scent articles, use the method that is best for your loved one.

Method 1

1. Use a clean gallon sized zip-lock plastic bag to place a worn t-shirt into. You can use a t-shirt the person has slept in or worn for an extended period of time. It will not matter if the shirt is "dirty" or has food spilled on it.
2. Use a marker to label the bag with the person's name and the date.
3. Place the bag & shirt in the freezer until the time it is needed or is replaced with a new scent article.

Method 2

1. Open an individually wrapped, sterile gauze pad and wipe the gauze pad on arms, neck, & face.
2. Place the gauze pad into a zip-lock bag.
3. Use a marker to label the bag with the person's name and the date.
4. Place the bag & gauze in the freezer until the time it is needed or is replaced with a new scent article.

A new scent article should be made once a year or if medications are changed. Birthdays are a great time to make new articles. If medications change, please wait about 30 days to make a new scent article. This will allow the body time to process the medications and allow for the scent to change completely.

It is very important not to contaminate scent articles or the dog will be looking for two people at once!