

Fingerprinting facts

- No two fingerprints are identical.
 - All of your own fingerprints are different.
 - Even identical twins, who share the same DNA, have different fingerprints.
- Fingerprints can be made by palms of hands, fingertips, soles of feet and surfaces of toes.
- Fingerprints are caused by sweat and are detected by the forensic scientist using dyes, chemicals or lasers.
- Fingerprinting is the most widely used forensic technique today.
- Fingerprints can be used to replace passwords, ID cards and other methods for limiting access to buildings, computers etc.



History

- Romans used branding and amputation to identify criminals.
- Later, visual identification using memory and photography was used.
- In the late 19th century a Frenchman called Bertillon used a system of measurements of parts of the body to identify people.
- In 1900, fingerprints began to be used to identify people.