

What to do if I find a knife or weapon?

If you locate a knife or anything you consider to be a weapon (excluding firearms), it is important that it is dealt with in an appropriate manner to best enable Police to give the most appropriate response, This leaflet is designed to give guidance on this.

If you find a knife please consider the circumstance of finding, the location and how the knife has been placed/hidden, any recent events you may be aware of and any obvious forensic opportunities, the most notable being blood contamination as this may indicate its use in an offence. All of these points will need to be passed to the Police operator for it to be assessed and responded to in the appropriate manner.

I will give three examples of finding a knife and the appropriate response.

POSSIBLY LINKED TO CRIME

Gardener finds a knife in a bush not particularly well hidden, near to a recent assault with a knife which appears to have blood residue on it.

All of these factors would give a strong indication that the knife is likely to have been used in the assault. Therefore it is imperative that it is dealt with in a manner that will preserve its forensic integrity and limit contamination.

LEAVE THE KNIFE IN PLACE.

DO NOT TOUCH IT.

CALL POLICE ON 101 and pass all information

STAY WITH IT UNTIL POLICE ARRIVE (unless unsafe to do so)

IF IT IS RAINING OR SNOWING AND IT IS POSSIBLE WITH AFFECTING THE KNIFE IN ANY WAY PLEASE COVER IT.

HIDDEN NO OBVIOUS LINK TO CRIME

Lighting engineer conducting maintenance checks finds a kitchen knife hidden in trunking on a staircase, no evidence to suggest it has been used in crime (no obvious marks/blood etc.)

The circumstances in this case would indicate that the knife has been hidden intentionally for future possible use and may not have been used in an offence outside of the initial possession.

IF POSSIBLE LEAVE KNIFE IN PLACE and stay with it, If not and you can safely remove the knife do so using clean rubber gloves placing it in a safe, clean and secure location.

CALL POLICE ON 101 and follow their advice

You may be asked to place the bag in a clean plastic bag and take it to your local Police Station

UNWANTED/OLD HOUSEHOLD KNIVES.

Knife block and knives found in bin storage cupboard, thrown out and awaiting collection by Refuse services.

In this case there is no indication of crime or criminal intent and no need for police involvement.

We would ask that any old knives that are unwanted are recycled responsibly by handing them to Refuse workers or taken them to a recycling centre to be disposed of correctly.

Please do not leave knives unattended as they could be taken and used as a weapon.

FIREARMS OR ANYTHING BELIEVED TO BE A FIREARM.

DO NOT TOUCH and STAY WITH IT

CALL POLICE IMMEDIATELY ON 999?

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