

Department of Justice Equipment List

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Photography does not exist in a vacuum. It's just one of many skills. Here's an annotated list courtesy *Forensic Magazine* and the US DOJ of what a well-equipped CSI might have in his or her car or truck.

Essential Items:

- Bindle paper (*commonly used to package trace evidence*)
- Biohazard bags
- Bodily fluid collection kit (*various kits for blood, semen, DNA, etc.*)
- Camera (*DSLR with standard zoom, macro and telephoto lenses*)
- Memory cards, spare batteries, remote flash, tripod and remote cord
- Evidence seals/tape
- Flashlight(s) with extra batteries (*pocket, tactical, forensic*)
- Footwear casting materials (*dental stone preferred*)
- Graph paper and pencils, small ruler or straight edge
- Latent print kit (*from \$25 to \$2,500*)
- Measuring devices (*tape measures, laser rangefinders, etc.*)
- Multifunction utility tool (*the Leatherman Wave is a good choice*)
- Notebook
- Paper bags (*small for hands, large for bloodstained bedding*)
- Permanent markers (*Marks-A-Lot or Sharpie*)
- Personal protective equipment (*gloves, boots, goggles, overalls*)
- Placards (*presumably, they're talking about numbered markers*)
- Plastic resealable bags (*that's bureaucrat for Ziploc*)
- Scales for photography (*about \$50 for a kit from Oregon Rule*)
- Spray paint, chalk, etc. (*Krylon "Upside Down" Marking Paint*)
- Syringe/knife tubes (*aka evidence tube and cardboard gun boxes*)
- Tweezers (*steel for splinters, disposable plastic for evidence*)
- *Fingerprint and tool mark casting material (Mikrosil)*
- *First aid kit with Betadine and sterile eye wash*

Optional items:

- Audio recorder (*check out the Tascam DR-100 Mk II*)
- Biohazard labels
- Bloodstain pattern examination kit
- Hemascein or Luminol
- Backup camera (*compatible with primary camera*)
- Chemical enhancement supplies (*this could mean anything*)
- Cutting instruments (*knives, box cutter, scalpel, scissors*)
- Directional marker/compass (*magnetic compass plus compass rose*)
- Distilled water (*for mixing chemicals and irrigating injuries*)
- Entomology (insect) collection kit
- Evidence collection containers (*from Tupperware to body bags*)
- Evidence identifiers
- Extension cords (*heavy duty outdoor three wire grounded*)
- Fingerprint ink pad and cards for elimination prints
- Flags (*presumably wire surveyor flags*)
- Forensic light source (*from \$125 to \$50,000*)
- Generator (*Forest Service approved, full wave rectified*)
- High-intensity lights (*preferably on stable eight foot stands*)
- Gunshot residue kit (*for testing a suspected shooter's hands*)
- Labels
- Laser trajectory kit (*lasers, trajectory rods, angle finders, etcetera*)
- Magnifying glass (*also a jeweler's loupe*)
- Maps
- Marker stickers such as numbers, letters, arrows, scales
- Metal detector (*small for bullets in walls - large for cases in grass*)
- Mirror (*for looking over, under and behind things*)
- Nail clippers for collecting debris under fingernails
- Phone list with important numbers
- Pocket knife (*redundant if you have a Leatherman tool*)
- Presumptive blood testing supplies
- Presumptive drug testing supplies

- Privacy screens (*excellent for annoying TV reporters*)
- Protrusion rod set (*same as trajectory rod*)
- Rakes (*and perhaps a shovel for clearing wooded dump sites*)
- Razor blades
- A knife with blades that can be broken off after each use
- Reflective vest
- Highway safety flares
- Refrigeration or cooling unit (*to preserve perishable evidence*)
- Respirators with filters (*verify NIOSH approval*)
- Roll of string (*useful for tying things and plotting trajectories*)
- Rubber bands
- Screen sifters (*evidence recovery in sand, gravel, graves, etc.*).
- Sexual assault evidence collection kit (*not a hospital rape kit*)
- Shoe print lifting equipment (*presumably an electrostatic lifter kit*)
- Snow wax (*for casting shoe prints and tire tracks in snow*)
- Tarps to protect evidence from the weather
- Scene and human templates (*available from forensic supply houses*)
- Thermometer.
- Tool kit (*something always needs fixing or dismantling*)
- Traffic cones
- Waterless hand wash with germicide
- Paper towels
- *Little Giant folding ladder for overhead shots and attic access.*
- *Pelican 9440 battery powered LED Area Lights*

Vendors:

- [Safariland](#)
- [Sirchie](#)
- [Arrowhead Forensics](#)
- [Evident Crime Scene Products](#)
- [Oregon Rule Forensics](#)