SCENT KIT

How to Make a Scent Kit

For a child who wanders, or an adult living with dementia. Some search teams use scent-trained dogs and may ask for a clean scent item. This is how to have one ready.

WHAT YOU NEED

A new sterile gauze pad (still sealed) · disposable gloves · a clean glass jar with a tight lid, or a new zip-top freezer bag · tape · a pen. One kit per person.

MAKE IT, STEP BY STEP

1. **Wash your hands** and put on new gloves, so your own scent stays off the pad. Do not touch the inside of the jar or bag.
2. **Open the gauze pad** and hold it by one corner only.
3. **Collect the scent.** Gently wipe the pad under the person's arm about 10 times. Or let them hold it in their bare hands for a few minutes.
4. **Drop it straight in** the jar or bag. Nobody else should touch it.
5. **Close it tightly** and put tape across the lid or seal.
6. **Fill in the label below**, cut it out and tape it to the outside.
7. **Store it** somewhere cool and dark, away from heat and sunlight, where any caregiver can find it fast.
8. **Make a new one each year** on the “replace by” date, or sooner if the seal is opened. Then throw the old one away.

✂ Cut out and tape to the jar or bag

SCENT ITEM · DO NOT OPEN

NAME

DATE COLLECTED

REPLACE BY (ONE YEAR LATER)

COLLECTED BY

Hand to police or the search team unopened.

TELL RESPONDERS IT EXISTS

WHERE THE KIT IS KEPT

WHO ELSE KNOWS WHERE IT IS

- [ ] Written on our safety plan and our emergency ID card.
- [ ] Told every caregiver, sitter or care home.
- [ ] Asked our local police if they keep a wandering file.

IF THEY GO MISSING

- [ ] **Call 911 first.** Do not stop to find the kit. Check the nearest water at the same time.
- [ ] Give responders a recent photo and what the person is wearing.
- [ ] **Tell them a scent kit exists** and where it is. A search team may ask for it.
- [ ] Give it to the officer or dog handler **unopened**. Let them handle it.

A scent kit is one extra item to have ready. It does not replace calling 911, searching, or a safety plan.