



## What is Operation Shield?

Operation Shield is Cheshire Constabulary's **unique DNA marking system** that is protecting homes and businesses in Cheshire by reducing burglary opportunities, deterring offenders, and identifying and recovering stolen property.

## How does it work?

Operation Shield works by using state-of-the-art **unique DNA liquid** which contains an individual code to mark property in your home, garage and shed. The DNA coding in the liquid is registered solely to your address and added to a database. This means that **if anything is ever stolen it can be traced back to you.**

The liquid is barely visible and is hard for offenders to see. Once it's applied to property it is **extremely difficult to remove.** This means if an offender is ever caught in possession of stolen items **they can be linked directly back to the crime scene.**

All property recovered by Cheshire Police is **scanned by Ultra-Violet beams** under Operation Shield to check for traces of unique DNA liquid. If we detect any evidence of the liquid, the property is then closely examined with high-power microscopes which can identify the individual code. This information is then inputted into the database of registered addresses and items and can be traced back to the owner.

Homeowners can get marking kits which come with a container of the unique liquid, an application brush and details of how to register property. Once property has been marked and registered, stickers can be displayed around your property to work as a deterrent to any burglars who may be looking to target your home.

**They might not see it... but we will**



## **What can Operation Shield protect?**

Operation Shield can protect a whole range of items within your home, garage and shed. Items listed below are just some examples of what can be marked with the liquid:

- Laptops
- TVs
- Games consoles
- Mobile phones
- Cameras
- Tablets
- Hi-fi systems
- Jewellery boxes
- Bikes
- Tools
- Gardening equipment
- Sports equipment.

## **What happens to burglars who are brought into police custody?**

Operation Shield now means that anyone who has been arrested and brought into custody is scanned for traces of unique DNA liquid – not just offenders who have been arrested for burglary. As well as scanning offenders, Cheshire Police also process any recovered property for DNA code. This process now means that police can link offenders back to burglaries which may have happened weeks before, with the evidence that associates them with individual crime scenes.

## **I am a business owner, what does Operation Shield mean for me?**

As well as protecting homes across Cheshire, Operation Shield is also dedicated to protecting businesses and the property within them. The system works the same way as it does for private premises, with business owners able to mark goods, equipment and cash tills with the unique DNA liquid. Businesses can also use an intruder spray system which releases a spray of the liquid onto offenders who force entry into business premises. The liquid then marks the offenders clothes, hair and skin, and is extremely difficult to remove. In fact, the liquid can stay on skin and hair for up to six weeks. They might not see it – but we will.

## **How can I get protected by Operation Shield?**

Operation Shield has launched in burglary hotspot areas across Cheshire and local officers have been working closely with communities in these areas to help them protect themselves.

Operation Shield uses service provider SelectaDNA for the unique DNA products. Other service providers are available.

If you would like to find out more about Operation Shield and crime prevention advice, [contact your local neighbourhood officers](#). If you would like to purchase SelectaDNA kits, visit the [SelectaDNA website](#).