

**WHICH ONE OF THESE
PRINTS DO YOU THINK...**

A



B



C



**A FINGERPRINT
TECHNICIAN WOULD
USE...**

D



E



F



**TO MAKE A
COMPARISON?**

Washington State Patrol
Identification Section
PO Box 42633
Olympia WA 98504-2633



*Guide to
taking a*



*great
thumbprint!*

**IDENTIFICATION
SECTION**



**For additional
information contact:**

**Washington State
Patrol
Identification Section
Tenprint Unit
PO Box 42633
Olympia, WA
98504-2633
(360) 534-2166**

HOW DID YOU DO? THIS IS THE CORRECT PRINT!

B



STEPS TO OBTAINING A GOOD QUALITY THUMBPRINT

1. Use an ink pad* designed for taking fingerprints. Please do not use a regular stamp pad as these do not work well for comparison purposes.
2. A “rolled” thumbprint, as recorded in a full set of inked fingerprints, is not required on forms with limited space. A plain impression is adequate for comparison purposes.
3. Please be sure the thumbprint** is placed on a plain white background. If the surface is not white, please take the print on a
4. Using medium pressure, place the right thumb on the ink pad and lift straight up. Using the same amount of pressure, place the thumb on the document and lift straight up. This will help prevent smearing or smudging of the thumbprint.
5. If the thumbprint does not look similar in quality to the “correct print,” retake the print on a retab and place it over the poor quality print.
6. Great job! If you have questions or comments, please contact the Tenprint Unit at the number listed on this brochure.

****Supplies are available from law enforcement supply vendors.***

*****WSP recommends using the right thumb to ensure uniformity.***