



# ODOR PREPARATION AND HANDLING TIPS

## WHERE TO GET YOUR TARGET ODORS AND ACCESSORIES

We recommend the following reputable vendors:

- [All Good Dogs](#)
- [K9NW Source](#)
- [The K9 Nose](#)
- [Paws 4 Fun](#)

## PREPARING ODOR

Hides should be prepared following the “24-hour” cooking method.

[Here is a video demonstrating how to prepare your odor.](#)

You will need the following:

- one large canning jar
- two smaller canning jars
- Minimum of 50 cotton swabs (with the paper straws) cut in half

Here are the steps for using this odor preparation method:

- The large canning jar is for holding your odor oil vial and dropper (which should be stored **OUTSIDE** the odor vial itself, since the essential oils are corrosive).
- Fill one of the smaller canning jars with the cotton swab halves.
- Draw up some oil in the dropper and place 3-5 drops on the inner wall of the smaller canning jar with the cut cotton swabs.
- Return any unused oil back into the oil vial, close it, place the dropper **OUTSIDE** the vial and return the vial and dropper to the large canning jar.
- Close the smaller canning jar and shake it for several minutes.
- Allow this smaller canning jar with scented cotton swabs to sit and “cook” for 24-hours. **NO** formal cooking is necessary. We are simply allowing the odor vapors to permeate all the cotton swabs.



## ODOR PREPARATION AND HANDLING TIPS

- In 24-hours, you may insert 3-5 scented cotton swabs into an odor vessel (e.g. metal tin, straw, tube, etc.) to place within the search area as your hide.
- After a search is done, these scented cotton swabs may be removed from the odor vessel and placed into the second smaller canning jar. These used scented cotton swabs may be reused for a few months in your practice sessions.

### LOADING ODOR VESSELS

[Here is a video showing how odor vessels should be loaded.](#)

Target novel odors require special attention and handling to ensure we are not inadvertently contaminating the search area. Doing so can cause the dog to alert on the odor contamination!

As such, we strongly recommend all participants and Assistants follow these tips when storing and handling their odor:

- Store all target odors in air-tight cases away from any clean odor vessels, containers, adhesives (earthquake putty, GlueDots, etc.) or other supplies you may use within your searches (surveyor flags, start line tape, staging supplies, clean objects, etc.).
- Once an object has had a hide on or inside of it (e.g., a bucket), it is now and forever considered an odor item! These odor items should be stored together and away from anything that is considered clean.
- Wear plastic gloves whenever handling odor (loading, placing or removing your hides) and use tweezers to load any odor vessels.

**NO NAKED SCENTED COTTON SWABS!** All scented cotton swabs **MUST** be contained within some sort of odor vessel (e.g. metal tins, straws, tubes, etc.).

If you are interested in learning more about preparing or storing odor, check out the [Prepping and Storing Odor Webinar](#) offered through Scent Work University.