

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

*Recognizing the signs
of teen alcohol or drug
use in your home.*



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WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF YOUR TEEN'S ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE IN YOUR HOME?

This interactive exhibit of a teenager's bedroom contains items that could signal that a young person is involved in risky activities. How many red flags can you identify? Make a list as you search the bedroom, and then compare it to our answer key. Through this exercise, parents can become more educated on what to look for and where to look for signs of substance use. Research shows that the sooner a parent can intervene in their child's substance use, the better the outcome.



21 horizontal lines for writing.

A photograph of a bedroom, heavily tinted with a red color. In the foreground, a wooden desk is cluttered with a laptop, two small speakers, a mouse, and stacks of books. A black office chair is positioned in front of the desk. To the right, a bed with a striped pillow and a teddy bear is visible. The background features a bookshelf filled with books and a small potted plant. The overall atmosphere is dim and somewhat mysterious due to the monochromatic red lighting.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

Warning signs of substance use.

Seemingly innocent items commonly used by youth could actually indicate substance use. Strengthen your parent detective skills by knowing what to look for in your child's bedroom and learn why these items could indicate that your child is using alcohol or drugs.

ITEMS USED TO HIDE ALCOHOL



Flasks made to hide and carry alcohol often look like innocent everyday items - a hammer, sunscreen, lotion, tampon, etc. They are easily purchased online or at Walmart.



Energy drinks or water bottles

ITEMS USED TO CONSUME ALCOHOL



Plastic bottles with a cork in the top and a ball pump are used to vaporize alcohol and inhale it. This is extremely dangerous as alcohol enters the bloodstream immediately through the lungs.



Flavored candy such as Skittles or Jolly Ranchers are dissolved in soda and cough syrup to flavor “Sizzurp” or “Drank,” which is the nickname for a combination of soda and over-the-counter or prescription cough syrup.



Hand sanitizer mixed with **salt** is used to consume the alcohol in hand sanitizer. When mixed with salt, other liquid in the sanitizer sinks to the bottom and the alcohol floats to the top.

ITEMS USED IN VAPING



Vape pens, e-cigarettes, etc. often look very similar to a flash drive and are charged via USB port. These devices deliver nicotine, flavors, and other additives to the user via an inhaled aerosol. The devices can also be used to inhale synthetic drugs and for dabbing.



Vape juice, used in vape pens and e-cigs, can come in disguised packaging. The liquid contains nicotine and flavorings and is inhaled during use. This apple flavor was sold in a giant juice box, which was taken off the market when children mistakenly drank it.

ITEMS USED TO HIDE DRUGS & PARAPHERNALIA

Drugs may be hiding in plain sight. Here are some ways that your kids may be hiding drugs and drug paraphernalia in their room.



“**Stash containers**” in the form of soda cans, shaving cream, deodorant, household cleaners, etc. with built-in hidden compartments (These are easily purchased online.)



Stuffed animals, pillows and/or a **mattress** with a hole cut in them



Inside empty **DVD/CD cases**



Flip flop sole with a slit cut in the bottom



A **book** that has been hollowed out



Hollow **lipstick** containers, hollow Chapstick containers and hollow jewelry or accessories



Empty stapler



Contact lens case concealing crushed pills



Light switch faceplates
(sometimes with one or more screws missing for easier access)



Inside air vents



Clothing (particularly hooded sweatshirts or bras) with drugs stashed inside the drawstring or underwire sections



Drugs stashed inside of a hat rim or tag



Drugs or paraphernalia hidden in the battery compartment of alarm clocks, flashlights or any other battery-operated devices

ITEMS USED AS DRUG PARAPHERNALIA



Pill crushers, credit cards and **gift cards** are used to crush and prepare powdered substances like prescription drugs, cocaine, and heroin.



A **scale** or a **computer mouse** with a removable top that reveals a digital scale underneath. Scales are used to weigh and deal drugs.



Scissors are used to clip and hold a joint, so look for scissors that are scorched or burned.



Foil, foil gum wrappers or **rolling papers** are used as a smoking pipe or to roll joints. Foil can be used to smoke heroin, which is also called “chasing the dragon”.



Empty soda cans that have been crushed and have holes poked in them are used for smoking marijuana. Ones that have the bottom cut out are used to cook drugs for intravenous use.



Plastic baggies, twisted triangle ends of plastic baggies and garbage twist ties cut in halves or thirds are signs of drug use and drug dealing, as baggies are often used to distribute drugs.



Metal or plastic bottle caps are used as a small pan to mix heroin with water and cook heroin before suctioning into a needle for heroin use.



Straws and hollowed-out **pens** are used to snort drugs and/or to smoke heroin.



Spoons are used to cook heroin for injection. Spoons are often bent and burned on the underside.



Small pieces of rolled up cotton from **cotton balls** or **q-tips** are often used to filter heroin liquid when filling a needle for injection.



Shoelaces, **rubber bands**, **phone charger cords** or **belts** with bite marks are used as a tourniquet for intravenous drug use.



Highlighters and **permanent markers** are often used as an inhalant.



Propellant cleaners, like **dust remover sprays**, or **spray paints** are often used as an inhalant.



Empty balloons are typically used as inhalant paraphernalia.

ITEMS USED TO HIDE DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE



A kit with **eye drops, mints, perfume, body spray, hand sanitizer** and other similar items are used to hide the physical signs and smells of drug use.



Herbal supplements and **detox kits** are used to quickly flush the body of toxins and pass urine drug tests.



Air fresheners and **household cleaning products** are often used to hide smells of drug use.



A **Splroof**, which is a toilet paper roll with dryer sheets stuffed inside and/or secured to one end with a rubber band, is used to hide smells of drug use.

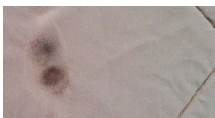
WARNING SIGNS OF DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE



Receipts, lottery tickets, magazine paper, dollar bills and other thin pieces of paper are folded into what acts as a tiny envelope (a wrap or bundle) to create innocent looking packaging used to carry heroin powder, cocaine or other drugs in powder form.



Blackened fingers and **smudges** are soot from handling burnt foil, bottle caps and spoons when cooking heroin or smoking drugs.



Black ash on clothes, bedding, tables and carpeting are signs of smoking drugs or transfer from the bottom of 'cooking' spoon in heroin use.

ITEMS SYMBOLIC OF DRUG CULTURE



420 signs or references, as 420 is a code-term in cannabis culture that refers to the consumption of cannabis, especially around the time 4:20pm/am and celebrating cannabis on the date of April 20.



Seedless apparel brand is well-known to be associated with drug culture. They even sell hats with built-in stash pockets, specifically marketed for hiding drugs.



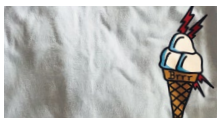
dtsab? brand apparel, which stands for “down to smoke a bowl?”, is well-known to be associated with drug culture.



“**Girl Scout Cookies**” was the original name for **GSC**, the hybrid cannabis strain that is well-known for its high THC levels and unique smell. This specific shirt also has a built-in stash pocket for hiding drugs.



“**Cookies**” is slang that can refer to marijuana or weed, often a specific hybrid strain called GSC that has a particularly high THC content.



“**Ice Cream**” is another hybrid cannabis strain, named for its smooth taste and aroma. A drug dealer can also be referred to as “the ice cream man.”



The “**double cup**” refers to drinking “Sizzurp” to get high, which is prescription cough syrup mixed with Sprite.



D.A.B.S. plays off the D.A.R.E. logo and refers to “dabs”, which are concentrated doses of cannabis made by extracting THC using a solvent like butane or carbon dioxide, resulting in sticky oils referred to as wax. D.A.B.S. logos are also perhaps indicative of dabbing, which is smoking a concentrated wax, also known as shatter, budder or butane hash oil (BHO.)

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