

Is Your Teen Hiding Drugs or Alcohol?



If you are suspicious that your teen might be using drugs, do not be shy about looking through the house for drugs, paraphernalia, and other signs of drug use. If you cannot get past trust and privacy issues in order to go through your teen's bedroom and personal property, begin with searching the rest of the house.

Popular places to hide drugs around the house are surprisingly in the kitchen, bathroom, and an attic or basement. Some possibilities include:

- In a bathroom, taped underneath the tank or inside an exhaust fan
- The drop ceiling of a basement or storage room
- Underneath the insulation in the attic
- Inside the wall plate on the light switches
- Inside throw pillows
- Taped to the inside of air-conditioning ducts
- A custom made can with a bottom that opens
- Backpacks
- Inside a hollowed out book on a bookshelf
- In a sibling's room
- In their car or possibly your car
- Outside in the yard underneath something heavy
- Inside the pockets of coats, jackets, and clothes hanging in closets
- Inside old shoes



Items that could indicate substance use:

- Dustoff or Rediwhip (inhalants)
- Markers or highlighters that have pipes inside
- Toilet paper roll w/ dryer sheet makes a filter for smoking
- Febreze, eye drops, mints, car air freshener (all to conceal drug use)
- Cigar wrapper or "guts" of a cigar (for making a "blunt"), rolling papers, lighter
- "Monster" or other power drinks (for mixing with alcohol)
- Blister packs for pills
- Pacifier and lollipop (to aid with teeth-grinding while using club drugs such as ecstasy or Molly)
- "420" indicators (4-20 is a reference to marijuana use. April 20 is thought of as "marijuana day")
- Razor, straw or broken pen, syringe, burned spoon (snorting or injecting substances)
- E-cigarette can hide THC liquid or wax in reservoir
- Sports bottle - check for alcohol
- Missing prescription medications (abused prescription drugs are most often obtained from their own home or a friend's home)
- Small screen from faucet (used to make a bowl for pipe)



Kratom



blunt

Specialty items with secret compartments used for hiding drugs can be purchased at malls, on the Internet, at novelty and gift shops, and at head shops. Ordinary objects such as baseball hats, clothes with hidden compartments, and soda or shaving cream cans in which the bottom comes off are popular items used by many teens today to hide their stash. Because these items are typically marketed towards teenagers and young adults, they are usually colored brightly and printed with fashionable designs.

If your suspicions are correct and your teen is using drugs, there may be evidence of drug use hidden in plain sight. Take a close look around your teen's bedroom. Drug paraphernalia can include straws that have been cut short, pieces of aluminum foil, and small spoons. Plates, mirrors, cans of whip cream, and empty cold medicine packages lying around could indicate drug use.

Your teen's room décor can be a clue as well. "420" posters and t-shirts with clocks showing 4:20 as the time are a marijuana reference. A flower inside a glass tube may actually be a crack pipe. An unfamiliar mobile phone could be a disguised scale. Magic markers and highlighter pens are made to hide marijuana pipes. Unfortunately, the amount of drug paraphernalia available today is vast, making it almost impossible to monitor new trends.

To learn more, visit: www.drugfree.org/resources/is-your-teen-using-signs-and-symptoms-of-substance-abuse/