



SEARCH THE ROOM – SEARCH THE HOUSE

Searching your child's room is not only your right, it is a responsibility. Privacy has its limits, but your house is your house; at any age. However, it is no longer enough to search your child's room; you must understand how to search your home. The internet and creativity have allowed kids to become ingenious in terms of outsmarting Mom & Dad.

Here are some pointers that may help you uncover the things you need to know.

1. Think like a sneak; Stretch your imagination to the end, think like you would be trying to hide things from yourself. Remember, drugs come in small packages so no space is too small.
2. Extend the search; Hiding places do not just exist in your room, it extends to the whole house and even outside. Many addicts have reported hiding their "stash" in their parent's room.
3. Seasonal Clothing - Winter clothes in the summer and summer clothes in the winter make great hiding spots because they go unused. Look for secret pockets or slashes in the fabric. Don't restrict your search to their closet, expand it to anyplace you store seasonal clothing.
4. Seasonal Boxes - Seasonal storage boxes are used because they go long periods of time with nobody looking in them. If your child seems to be going into these boxes frequently or those areas always seem to be disturbed, there is a reason. Consider finding a way to seal those packages so that anyone going in and out would be evident.
5. Key places to look at in the bedroom; boxes, inside stuffed animals or toys, any battery compartment, vents, inside curtain rods, inside wall socket electrical boxes, between the mattresses, under the bed, attached to the box springs, under the edge of the carpet, anything with a back that can be removed, inside pillows, in dresser drawers, attached to the back or underside of drawers or furniture, back packs, etc.
6. Hiding devices; understand that the local Head Shop and internet locations sell hiding devices. These include but are not limited to fake Axe cans, pop cans, hair brushes with screw off ends, calculators, surge protectors, wall sockets, inside computers.

7. Inside the house; Crawl spaces, rafters, computer towers, vents, under sinks, under furniture; anywhere with a small compartment that doesn't get checked frequently.
8. Outside the house; in vacuum seal bags hidden in mulch or under rocks, or in the neighbors landscaping. In the car in the spare tire area, under seats, in hidden compartments (Yes, they will hide it in your car), in the garage.
9. If you see them milling around an area frequently, red flag
10. Kids change their hiding places; parents must change their search patterns.
11. Kids know parental habits. If they seem anxious for you to leave, there is a reason. Change your patterns. Come home early, give a fake time for your return home, park down the street and walk back to the house; DON'T BE PREDICTABLE
12. Read their Behavior, trust your gut
13. Upon return home be in tune to strange odors or clean odors

"DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE WRONG, DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE RIGHT"

For a visual guide to searching your home, go to;
http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com/identify/your_home.html