

What are drug paraphernalia?

The term drug paraphernalia refers to any equipment that is used to produce, conceal, and consume illicit drugs. It includes but is not limited to items such as bongs, roach clips, miniature spoons, and various types of pipes.

Under federal law the term drug paraphernalia means “any equipment, product or material of any kind which is primarily intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance.”

Examples of Drug Paraphernalia

- Pipes (metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic)
- Water pipes
- Roach clips
- Miniature spoons
- Chillums (cone-shaped marijuana/hash pipes)
- Bongs
- Cigarette papers
- Cocaine freebase kits



Marijuana pipe hidden inside marker.

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What do drug paraphernalia look like?

Identifying drug paraphernalia can be challenging because products often are marketed as though they were designed for legitimate purposes. Marijuana pipes and bongs, for example, frequently carry a misleading disclaimer indicating that they are intended to be used only with tobacco products. Recognizing drug paraphernalia often involves considering other factors such as the manner in which items are displayed for sale, descriptive materials or instructions accompanying the items, and the type of business selling the items.

The appearance of drug paraphernalia varies depending upon the manufacturer and intended purpose. Increasingly, bongs, pipes, and other paraphernalia are manufactured in bright, trendy colors and bear designs such as skulls, devils, dragons, and wizards. Manufacturers attempt to glamorize drug use and make their products attractive to teenagers and young adults.



Marijuana pipes, spoon with cocaine residue, and marijuana bong.

NDIC. Courtesy of City of Johnstown (PA) Police Department

Where are drug paraphernalia sold?

Drug paraphernalia can be obtained through various means. Many large manufacturers market their products over the Internet and through mail-order businesses. In addition, drug paraphernalia frequently are sold at tobacco shops, trendy gift and novelty shops, gas stations, and convenience stores.

Are drug paraphernalia illegal?

Yes, drug paraphernalia are illegal. The drug paraphernalia statute, U.S. Code Title 21 Section 863, makes it “unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale drug paraphernalia; to use the mails or any other facility of interstate commerce to transport drug paraphernalia; or to import or export drug paraphernalia.”

NDIC. Courtesy of City of Johnstown (PA) Police Department



Postage scale frequently used to weigh drugs.

Check out Fast Facts on:

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- Crystal methamphetamine
- Drug-facilitated sexual assault
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- Fentanyl
- Foxy
- Fry
- GHB and analogs
- Heroin
- Inhalants
- Jimsonweed
- Ketamine
- Khat
- LSD
- Marijuana
- MDMA
- Methadone
- Methamphetamine
- Methamphetamine laboratory hazards
- OxyContin
- PCP
- Powdered cocaine
- Prescription drugs
- Psilocybin
- Ritalin
- Rohypnol
- Salvia divinorum
- Steroids
- Teens and drugs
- Triple C
- Yaba



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Glass and metal pipes used to smoke crack cocaine and methamphetamine.

Other products of interest:

- *Huffing—The Abuse of Inhalants*
- *Prescription Drug Abuse and Youth*
- *Drugs, Youth, and the Internet*

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National Drug Intelligence Center
 319 Washington Street, 5th Floor
 Johnstown, PA 15901-1622
 Telephone: 814-532-4601
 FAX: 814-532-4690
 NDIC Washington Liaison Office
 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 1001
 McLean, VA 22102-3840
 Telephone: 703-556-8970
 FAX: 703-556-7807

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Drug Paraphernalia Fast Facts



Questions and Answers



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