

BLINDSPOTS

Drug paraphernalia, or items often involved in drug use, are a good sign that an adolescent may be using or experimenting with illicit drugs. Paraphernalia can include anything an adolescent has modified to make or use drugs, or to conceal them from you. Would you know what to look for?

Common items relating to marijuana use include rolling papers, cones, pipes, grinders, small metal clips, lighters or matches, small plastic baggies, and leafy residue. Look for pipes made using household products such as apples, highlighters, or plastic bottles. Currently, e-cigarette and vaping devices (ENDS) are also being used to smoke marijuana (a practice called *DABBING*).

Paraphernalia common to inhaled drugs, such as cocaine, include razor blades, small mirrors, spoons, rolled up papers, tin foil, dollar bills, and straws.

Signs of inhalant abuse with gasoline, painter thinner, or solvents includes finding empty cans of these products you did not use; also, nozzles, balloons, or cloth dipped in chemicals. Items such as needles, syringes, medical tubing, spoons, lighters, and/or butane may all point to use of injectable drugs such as heroin.

In addition to the commonly found household items, there are an array of products, easily found on the internet that can trick the “untrained” eye.

CAPE has created *Blindspots*, a program designed to educate parents, professionals and other adults on what to look for within their teen’s bedroom, locker, clothing and bookbags. This is an adult only program. Adults will have the opportunity to explore a mock teen bedroom and see how many items and innuendos they can spot that may indicate possible drug use. Afterward a PowerPoint presentation, discussion and explanation of the many hidden items will take place.

This event can be delivered in a variety of ways, depending on the number of participants, and each individual organization’s needs. Please contact the Community Educator at CAPE for more information, at 845-765-8301 ex. 104.