

Drug Paraphernalia

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness

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.

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.

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.



Spoon

Syringe



Crack Pipe

What are 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



Postage Scale
frequently used to weigh drugs



Bongs



Meth Pipe



Rolling Papers



Clips

(continued)

Are drug paraphernalia illegal?

Yes, drug paraphernalia are illegal.

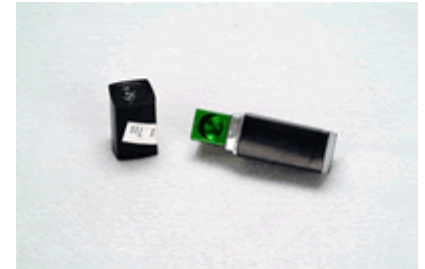
The drug paraphernalia statute, U. S. Code Title 21 Section 863, makes it "unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale drug paraphernalia; to use the mails or any other facility of interstate commerce to transport drug paraphernalia; or to import or export drug paraphernalia."



Soft drink can with false bottom.



Felt tip marker with internal drug pipe.



Lipstick dispenser hides drug pipe.

Information Provided by:
National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC)
U.S. Department of Justice
www.usdoj.gov/ndic
814-532-4601