

# Drug Paraphernalia



## 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 is defined as, "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 on 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.

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- Drug paraphernalia can be obtained on the Internet, through mail-order and at tobacco shops.



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Clearinghouse**  
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**800.232.4424 (phone)**  
**860.793.9813 (fax)**  
**[www.ctclearinghouse.org](http://www.ctclearinghouse.org)**

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

## What are some examples of drug paraphernalia?

### Marijuana

- Rolling papers
- Pipes
- Bong
- Roach clips
- E-Cigarettes



### Ecstasy/MDMA/Molly

- Glow sticks
- Pacifiers and lollipops (to prevent teeth grinding and jaw clenching)
- Bags of candy to hide pills

### Cocaine

- Straws or tubes
- Pipes
- Small mirrors, small spoons, short plastic straws, rolled-up paper tubes
- Razor blades



### Heroin

- Small spoons
- Needles
- Tin foil
- Pipes
- Plastic pen cases or cut up drinking straws



### Inhalants

- Aerosol cans
- Rags for sniffing
- Tubes of glue
- Balloons
- Nozzles



### Items used to cover up drug use

- Mouth wash, mints, and breathe sprays
- Eye drops for bloodshot eyes
- Sun glasses for red eyes, changes in pupil size, or eye movements

## Legal Consequences

Federal law\* states it is illegal for any person

- To sell or offer for sale drug paraphernalia;
- To use the mail or any other facility of interstate commerce to transport drug paraphernalia; or
- Import or export drug paraphernalia.

\*See Drug Paraphernalia, 21 U.S.C. 863, Controlled Substance Act Offenses and Penalties, [www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov)

## Connecticut Resources

Department of Mental Health  
and Addiction Services

[www.ct.gov/dmhas](http://www.ct.gov/dmhas)

24/7 Access Line

1-800-563-4086

## National Resources

Substance Abuse and  
Mental Health Services  
Administration  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

1.800.662.HELP (4357)

National Institute on  
Drug Abuse

[www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)