

Searching your child's room

Source: [HTTP://www.drugfree.org/resources/searching-childs-room](http://www.drugfree.org/resources/searching-childs-room)

Searching your child's room should be a decision you are able to defend. If you notice any change in your child's behavior, unusual odors wafting into the hallway from their room (like pot and cigarette smoke), smells to mask other smells such as incense or Lysol spray, or other warning signs you need to find out what's going on behind that "KEEP OUT" signs. Your child needs to understand that the limits you set with them do not stop at their bedroom door. If you have decided not to tell your child about the search, be prepared to explain your reasons to them if he or she catches you mid-search. Let your child know that you are doing it out of concern for his or her health and safety. If you discover that your kid is not drinking or doing drugs, this could be a good time to find out if there's something else that may be on his or her mind.

Good places to look:

Kids come up with some crafty places to conceal alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. Here's a short list of some o possible hiding spots:

- Dresser drawers, beneath or between clothes
- Desk drawers
- CD/DVD cases
- Small boxes – jewelry, pencil, etc.
- Backpacks/duffle bags
- Under a bed
- In a plant, buried in the dirt
- Between books on a bookshelf
- In books with pages cut out
- Makeup cases – inside fake lipstick tubes or compacts
- Under a loose plank in floor boards
- In fake soda bottles with false bottoms
- Inside over-the-counter medicine containers (Tylenol, Advil, etc)
- Inside empty candy bags such as M&Ms or Skittles

Also search your teen's cell phone speed dial list or instant message buddy lists on the computer for names you haven't heard of before. Ask your teen about any names you don't recognize