

Are Illegal Drugs at Your Program a Problem?

Even if drugs have not been a problem in your facility, every organization should have a written policy about drugs (illegal and legal). It's equally important to communicate your policy to staff and youth. Many clubs and youth organizations have a policy about checking backpacks at the door. This is a good practice because it helps to restrict weapons as well as drugs.

Finding drug stashes in your facility is often a matter of knowing where to look. Here are a few suggestions:

- Under base plates of metal light posts outside your buildings.
- Above ceiling tiles (particularly in bathrooms).
- Inside unlocked electrical panel boxes.
- Inside fire extinguisher casings.
- Inside unsecured lockers.
- Above the door jamb or other ledge-type surfaces (such as a fire exit sign).
- Under the liner in trash cans.
- Inside bathroom receptacles (such as paper towel and toilet paper dispensers).
- Between van seats or hidden in equipment on the van.
- Inside the backs of computers.
- Inside the backs of cell phones.
- Inside hollowed-out markers or lipstick tubes.

Make sure your organization's policies about drugs are reflected in your staff's actions to keep them out of your facility.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.