

How to Spot a “Grow Operation”

Rental Accommodations

Almost all marijuana growers will utilize rental property, residence and commercial to avoid damage to their own properties (e.g. high humidity levels & alterations to accommodate the grow operation).

Important note to Landlords: Tenants may pay rent in cash and while having no known source of income, drive expensive cars and use cell phones and pagers. Tenants may be reluctant to allow landlords to inspect their rented property and/or make arrangements to meet landlords away from the property to pay rent and/or discuss problems.

Discarded Equipment

Sometimes growers leave equipment lying around the yard such as nutrient containers, pots, wiring, soil, root balls, aluminum shrouds and PVC piping. On garbage day, a grow-op residence most likely will not put out any garbage due to the fact that grow houses are commonly used for the sole purpose of growing marijuana.

Unusual Visitor Behaviour

Inconsistencies in visitors to and from the residence, ranging from no visitors giving the appearance of seclusion, to frequent visitors for short time periods. Visitors will often leave one person waiting in the car while the other enters the premises.

Covered Windows

Covered with black plastic, heavy curtains pressed against the windows or blinds that are tightly shut & pressed against the windows.

Condensation

Humidity inside a grow room is approximately 65% with temperatures ranging between 80 to 90 F. These conditions manifest themselves through condensation on windows.

Abbotsford Police Department – CRIME PREVENTION

Smells & Odors

Skunk-like odor mixed with a sweet vegetative smell or the unique smell of rotting cabbage. Also, the odor of moth balls, chlorine, manure, soap and/or air freshener is frequently utilized ways of trying to mask the smell of the operation.

Electrical Humming, Fans, Trickling Water

Some electrical components in an indoor operation create humming sounds similar to a transformer on a hydro pole.

Bright Lights

High intensity 1000 watt lamps are normally used and sometimes not completely disguised. These lights are the same as used in outdoor public swimming pools, school gyms, outdoor football & baseball parks.

Localized Power Surges/Browning

Neighbourhood residences experience unexplained power surges or power “browning” (decrease of power which dims lights & slows down appliance use) with the return of normal power flow approximately 12 hours later.

“Beware of Dog” or “Guard Dog on Duty” Signs

Used to deter trespassing, protect against theft and detection by police.

History of Premises

Residence and/or commercial premises have been used as marijuana grow operations in the past. Many of these rental properties are known among the criminal element as having been used for growing marijuana then repeatedly used again.

Other Indicators

Other indicators used as props to deflect any attention by neighbours and police: Outdoor and/or indoor lights, radio and/or TV on for 24 hours, flyers left in mailbox or on the front steps, children’s toys & bikes outside without children living or seen at the residence, realty signs posted on front lawn.



FOR NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES

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