

HOW TO SPOT A CANNABIS FACTORY



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Top Tips

Look out for the signs

- Strong sticky smells
- Covered up windows
- Excessive security
- Steamy windows
- Lots of visitors - and at unsociable hours
- High electricity bills
- No Snow on the roof in winter
- Bright lights night and day
- Buzz of ventilation
- Any unusual adaptations to the building

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



Cannabis factories are dangerous and they can crop up in any residential area.

Wherever you live, it's possible that drugs are being produced behind any of those closed doors.

Here are the top signs to look out for.

Strong, sickly smells

It may sound obvious, but most cannabis grows are discovered by passers-by or keen-nosed residents catching a whiff of the drug's familiar smell. A cannabis crop takes about three months to grow and in the final weeks, the plants stink.

Covered up windows

If the curtains are always drawn or they are covered and boarded up from the inside, it's possible that something is being concealed from view.

Excessive security measures

Particularly in a neighbourhood that is generally safe, excessive safety measures (such as extra padlocks and locks on the door, grille fences or bars on windows) may be another sign of potential wrongdoing.

Lots of condensation

Cannabis plants need a greenhouse-like environment to grow. If you constantly see condensation on the windows, especially in the summer months, it might be caused by growing cannabis plants.

Lots of visitors - and at unsociable hours

Frequent and varied visitors to a property, often at unusual times, could mean you just have a popular neighbour with a big family. But if unfamiliar faces are turning up next door day and night, it might be a sign that there's something more sinister going on. One thing

to watch for is lots of new faces coming knocking.

Excessive Electricity Bills

Landlords – this is one for you to look out for. Have the electricity bills suddenly spiked or dropped? If they are much lower than usual, it's quite likely that the tenants are fiddling with the meter. This is potentially very dangerous, and you should report it immediately.

What happens when it snows?

Cannabis factories produce a lot of heat, which can cause tell-tale signs, especially in winter. When it snows, the roofs of cannabis factories can be obvious as the snow melts, meaning it is probably the only house on the street without a snow-covered roof.

Bright lights day and night

It's strange for anyone to need unusually bright lights on 24 hours a day. Cannabis needs light to grow, so watch out for homes with bright lighting at all times of the day and night. Lights will often be on a timer switch, coming on in the middle of the night.

Constant buzz of ventilation

If you can hear the constant noise of a fan, at all times of the day or night, chances are it could be acting as ventilation for the cannabis grow.

Adaptations to the building

This may be to create venting through floors or re-wiring - this can easily go unnoticed as many new tenants renovate properties.

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages

Anti-Social Behaviour

ATM Security

Beach Hut Security

Boat Security

Building Site Security

Business Security

Caravan Security

Card Security

Catalytic Converters

Church Security

Cold Callers

Commercial CCTV

Counterfeit Banknotes

County Lines Advice

for Landlords

Cyber Crime

Cycle Security

Dangerous Dogs

Dog Fouling

Dog Theft

Domestic CCTV

Domestic Violence

Farm Security

Fraud Prevention

Grooming

Hate Crime

Heating Oil

Home Improvements

Home Security

Horses and Stables

Keyless Vehicles

Key Safe Security

Lock Snapping

Neighbour Disputes

Occupiers Liability

Personal Security

Power Tool Security

Products Brochure

Rural Crime

Security Alarms

Sheds and Garages

Social Media

Social Media for

Parents

Suspicious Behaviour

Shoplifting

Vehicle Security

Windows and Doors

**Other Links you might
find helpful**

Ask The Police

Secured by Design

Sold Secure

Crimestoppers

Victim Care

**Residential Design
Guide**

