

Weed it out



Advice for Landlords and
letting agencies

Sunderland
Partnership

Weed it out

Are you a Landlord or letting agency?

If so this leaflet advises you to stay alert for signs that your properties are being used in the cultivation of cannabis.

Residential properties are often developed into cannabis farms and there are often distinctive signs that people can look out for which include:

- People arriving and leaving properties at random times of the day and night.
- A pungent aroma in the area
- Large amounts of electrical wiring, light fittings, chemicals or compost being delivered to residential premises.
- Blacked-out windows or bright lights coming from a number of windows throughout the night including the loft area.

As cannabis farming is mostly carried out in rented properties, you can play a key role in helping the police identify suspects.

The cultivation of cannabis in residential properties can cause significant damage. For example:

- Damage to the property caused in the cultivation of cannabis can cost thousands of pounds to put right, which is not covered by insurance and you would have to meet these costs.
- Electricity illegally extracted by the growers to power the lights and fans can total tens of thousands of pounds and the utilities companies will seek to recover the cost from you and increase costs for all electricity users.
- In addition, many properties used for this purpose have been damaged in fires caused by hot lighting and unsafe electrical systems.

You can protect your properties by conducting regular checks and helping the police identify suspected cannabis farms.

If you suspect that your property is being used for this purpose or if you have any other information about cannabis farms then please contact Northumbria Police on 03456 043 043 or ring the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Remember, Sunderland is one of the safest cities in the North. With your help, we can keep it that way.