



*San Diego County*

**SHERIFF**

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## TACTICAL TIP

### Jail Made Weapons

During scheduled and unscheduled cell/module searches and hygiene inspections, deputies have discovered numerous jail-made weapons. For the safety of the Incarcerated Persons (IPs), professional and sworn staff, it is imperative deputies stay vigilant in looking for contraband, especially jail-made weapons. The incarcerated persons housed in our facilities are finding creative ways to manufacture weapons and ensure they go undetected.

Common items purchased through commissary, such as toothpaste tubes, deodorant sticks and shampoo bottles, can be utilized to hide contraband in plain sight. Other examples can include excess amounts of toilet paper rolls, cardboard food trays and utensils, or other similar items.

For the above reasons, it is imperative that deputies remove all excess supplies and trash from the modules (e.g., food trays, empty shampoo bottles, toilet paper wrappers, etc.).

Additionally, IPs are manipulating reading glasses and deodorant bottles to create jail-made weapons. These items are often overlooked as potential weapons. However, it highlights the importance of being thorough when conducting a pat down search of an IP, their property, and living area.

#### Jail Made Weapons:

- Deodorant Bottles/Toothpaste Tubes
  - IPs have modified the dial at the bottom of the deodorant stick, and sharpened it to a point, making it an effective "push dagger" type weapon. This jail-made weapon can then be reinserted into the deodorant bottle for concealment. IPs have also made small openings in the toothpaste tubes to insert weapons (thin pieces of metal) or contraband.
- Reading Glasses
  - Reading glasses have been discovered with the arms manipulated to expose the metal frame, which is then sharpened to a point. Depending on how the incarcerated person manipulates the frame of the reading glasses, the sharpened metal piece can be inserted back into the arms as a sheath.

These are just a few examples of the constant dangers we face daily. Deputies must constantly be aware of potential threats to those housed and working in our facilities. Complete and thorough searches of IPs, module property, and housing units will assist in the discovery of these items, creating a safer environment for us all. Utilizing the body scanners at the facilities is an available search option.

The above-listed hiding places does not mean deputies can overlook the potential of IPs hiding contraband and weapons in common places such as:

- Shared Common Areas
  - Bottom of dayroom trashcans
  - Toilet/Shower areas

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This Training Bulletin was prepared by the Detention In-Service Training Unit. If you have expertise in a particular subject and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact the Detention In Service Training unit at [InserviceTrainingUnit.Detentions@sdsheriff.org](mailto:InserviceTrainingUnit.Detentions@sdsheriff.org).



- Cells
  - Cell Door Rails
  - Bunk Rails
  - Between multiple brown bags (cell trashcan)
  - Between pages of books or mixed in with pages of mail
  - Inside ripped mattresses
- Hidden in Plain Sight
  - Behind Posters/Pictures/Wall Coverings
  - The use of toothpaste to hide contraband on the wall or in cracks in the wall
  - Behind labels (such as deodorant bottles)
  - Light fixtures (light fixtures can be covered with paper hiding missing plexiglass that can be used to create shanks)

Examples:

Razor is hidden behind the Deodorant Bottle Label and in between the pages of a book.



Shanks hidden inside a ripped mattress.

