

DID YOU KNOW....

- **88%** of American teens ages 13 to 17 have or have access to a mobile phone of some kind, and a majority of teens
- **73%** have smartphones.
- **76%** of 15- to 17-year-olds having a smartphone, compared with
- **68%** of 13- to 14-year-olds

Teens, Social Media & Technology Overview 2015 AMANDA LENHART, PEW RESEARCH CENTER

YOU NEED TO KNOW


Hidden-photo vaults, such as **Calculator%**, **Keep Safe**, **Private Photo Vault**, and **Best Secret Folder**, are places to keep photos out of view from a prying parent or friend. They share key features, including:

- requiring a password for access;
- hiding their true purpose (fake calculator apps actually do function as calculators but double as a way to input a secret code and stash secret pictures);
- sounding an alarm or snapping a picture when accessed to catch anyone trying to break in.


*Here is a short list of apps that allow the user to hide their activity. **Although, there are too many apps to list and new ones are constantly being created, it may help you to look for similar apps with names like Locker, Vault, Hide, Private or Personal** on the phone itself, and also in the purchase history of the user's iTunes or Google play account. If you use an iPhone, the best way to solve this situation is for parents to add their teen to their iCloud account. That way, whenever a new app is downloaded by the teen, it will automatically download to the parent's phone as well.*


WHY SHOULD I WORRY


In 2015 over 100 Colorado teens were caught using apps to hide a huge sexting ring from parents and school officials, using apps like:


 **Audio Manager/ Hide It Pro** -Audio Manager, An Android and iOS app disguised as a fully functional audio manager. It is actually a secret vault that protects all your secret content. The program will disappear from the recent apps list, too, leaving all tracks covered.


 **Best Secret Folder** An iOS app that is used if you don't want anyone to know that you downloaded a privacy app. The icon is disguised as "My Utilities," so no one will ever guess there are private photos tucked away in your phone. There is an "Intruder stopper" option plays fake video upon opening.


 **Burn Note**-A texting app that erases messages after a set period of time. Messages are stored until first viewed and then deleted.

 **Calculator%**. -A calculator icon posing as something it isn't. These apps look like a normal calculator function but when teens push a button within the app they can hide all inappropriate pictures.


 **Gallery Lock** -An Android app used to hide photos. It lets you put the app icon in "Stealth Mode," so it doesn't appear on your phone. It will also catch a photo of any intruder with your phone's front-facing camera after three failed password attempts.


 **KeepSafe** -A simple Android and iOS app with basic password protection for photos and videos. Capable of sending 'self-destructing' photos to others.


 **KYMS**-An Android and iOS app that is used to hide photos, PDFs, Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations and text files. The app's icon is disguised as a calculator. There is a "panic gesture" that closes app immediately when placing hand over screen.

 **Photo Locker** -A hidden photo app on Android. This app lets you securely hide photos and videos of others. It has stealth mode that hides the app from the Android app drawer.

 **Private Photo Vault**-An iOS app with only one purpose: to hide. It allows you import photos into albums and hide them behind a PIN lock. There is an option to set up a decoy password that launches a different set of pictures.

 **Smart Hide Calculator**
An Android app which not only hides files, but also hides itself. It appears to be a calculator. Entering a code will unlock the photo album.

 **Spy Calc**-An iOS app with only one purpose; to hide. An app disguised to be a calculator. Entering a code will unlock the photo album.

 **Vaulty**.-Vaulty will not only store photos and videos away from parental spying eyes, but it also will snap a photo of anyone who tries to access the "vault" with the wrong password.