

Synthetic Drugs

Synthetic Marijuana (K2)



Sold by shopkeepers as incense, synthetic marijuana or "K2" is actually any one of a variety of herbal plants or plant products that have been sprayed with potent psychotropic chemicals designed to mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. These chemicals are neither natural nor safe for human consumption.

Synthetic marijuana often comes in tea-sized packets (shown at left) and is commonly sold under brand names such as Mr. Nice Guy, Spice, Peace of Mind, Kwik-E and XXX. Synthetic marijuana is commonly smoked or inhaled through a pipe as it produces a high that mimics marijuana. The chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana do not show up on standard drug screens.

Poison Control Centers and Emergency Rooms across the country have reported users experiencing a range of side effects including rapid heart rate, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, severe agitation, anxiety, vomiting, hallucinations, and seizures.

Because synthetic marijuana is a relatively new substance, long-term health effects are unknown. However, toxicology experts believe these chemicals may have potentially life-threatening effects on any individual who consumes them.

For more information about synthetic marijuana or about City of Kingsport ordinances banning synthetic substances, contact the Kingsport Police Department at 229-9300.

Synthetic Drugs

Bath Salts



Though the name may sound harmless, bath salts are synthetic stimulants that contain amphetamine-like chemicals, including mephedrone. When consumed, bath salts are extremely dangerous and have a high risk for overdose. Because the drug is relatively new and some of the contents are unknown, consuming bath salts in any way is highly dangerous.

Bath salts are commonly sold in either powder or crystal form. People who consume bath salts typically snort them, shoot them, or mix them in with food or drink. Popular street varieties are commonly sold under the names *Blizzard*, *Blue Silk*, *Ivory Snow*, *Ivory Wave*, *Ocean Burst*, *Pure Ivory*, *Purple Wave*, *Snow Leopard*, *Stardust*, *Vanilla Sky*, *White Dove*, *White Girl*, *White Knight* and *White Lightening*.

Poison Control Centers and Emergency Rooms across the country have reported users experiencing a range of side effects including rapid heart rate, high blood pressure, chest pains, severe agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia and delusions.

Because bath salts are a relatively new drug, it's difficult to know the full long-term effects. However, they seem to have many similarities to methamphetamine and can lead to emotional and physical "crash-like" feelings of depression, anxiety and intense cravings for more of the drug. Because they contain amphetamine-like chemicals, bath salts also carry the risk of stroke, heart attack, and sudden death.

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Synthetic Drugs: What You Should Know

Sullivan County Anti-Drug Coalition

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Many synthetic drugs do not have the "ingredients" on their packaging, list false ingredients or fail to include the synthetic compounds. There is no oversight of the manufacturing process. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported 303 exposures to bath salts in 2010 and 4,720 exposures between January 1 and August 31, 2011. Some of these products are sold in our county and all can be obtained on the Internet.

Clear distinctions between "synthetics" terminology is not widely understood, nor is the terminology used consistently. This information sheet is meant to increase awareness about these products.

BATH SALTS



These powders are marketed as bath salts but are not salts for bath water. They contain methylmethcathinone (4-MMC) or methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), powerful mood altering stimulants, formulated for effects similar to **cocaine**. These substances are currently banned by the DEA and have been outlawed by the European Union since 2010. They are consumed by smoking or snorting. Users claim a more social and interactive feeling, which can lead to **hallucinations** and **profound paranoia**.

PLANT FOOD



Mephedrone is labeled and sold as plant food. The powder mimics the effects of **ecstasy**; though more intense, euphoria may be more limited. It is distributed in capsule form. Users break apart the capsule and snort or smoke the exposed powder. Insomnia, hypertension, vasoconstriction and sweating, as well as **psychotic-like** symptoms, cardiac **dysrhythmias**, **seizures** and **renal problems** have been reported.

POTPOURRI & INCENSE



Forms of synthetic cannabinoids, marketed as types of home air fresheners, or herbal incense are not regulated by the FDA. Risks of severe **psychiatric complications** may be more likely to occur because the type and amount of cannabinoid can vary considerably from batch to batch, even within the same product. **Addiction** is a strong possibility. Innovation in manufacturing of these products quickly outdates current product lists.

LAZY CAKES



In addition to chemically created synthetic drugs, several products use natural ingredients to mimic the effects of certain drugs. Melatonin-laced brownies are comparable to **valium** or **tranquilizers**. They contain 7.8 mg. of melatonin (approximately 0.2 mg. will induce sleep in the average adult). These products can cause impairment to the central nervous system, trouble breathing and nausea.

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA



K2, K3 or "Spice" is a chemical compound that is three to five times more potent than THC. It is typically sold in small, silvery plastic bags of dried leaves and marked as incense that can be smoked. The active chemical compound decreases body temperature, leave the body unable to feel certain stimuli, **increase heart rate and blood pressure**. It appears to be stored in body for a long period of time. Synthetic marijuana products are usually smoked in joints or pipes, but some users make it into a tea.

DEA BANNED PRODUCTS

"On Friday, October 21, 2011, the DEA published its final order exercising its emergency scheduling authority to control three synthetic stimulants used to make bath salts. Except as authorized by law, this action makes **possessing** or **selling** these chemicals, or products that contain them, illegal in the United States. This emergency action was necessary to prevent an imminent threat to public safety."

GetSmartAboutDrugs.org

For more information, please visit www.scadcoalition.org or "like" our Facebook page - scadcoalition