

General

Question: What is a synthetic drug?

Answer:

A synthetic drug is a drug with properties and effects similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, especially such a drug created in order to evade restrictions against illegal substances.

Question: What are examples of synthetic drugs?

Answer:

Examples of synthetic drugs are synthetic phenethylamines, including synthetic cathinones or synthetic hallucinogens and, more commonly known as “bath salts”. Synthetic cannabinoids, also known as synthetic marijuana, are another example of designer drugs and these are often found in herbal incense products that mimic the effects of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana.

Question: Are these “bath salts” the same as products found in the health and beauty section of retailers?

Answer:

The term “bath salts” used here only applies to substances with a chemical structure substantially similar to synthetic cathinones and synthetic hallucinogens.

Question: Is the use of illicit synthetic drugs an emerging drug abuse issue?

Answer:

Poison control centers throughout the United States continue to receive calls regarding instances of poisoning from products containing “bath salts” and synthetic cannabinoids, including instances resulting in accidental death and suicide. Calls received by poison control centers generally reflect only a small percentage of actual instances of poisoning.

Question: What should be done if a person appears to have acute intoxication from any of these products?

Answer:

Persons exhibiting acute intoxication from these products should be referred to the Emergency Department. If necessary, the Poison Control Center may be reached at (800)222-1222.

“Bath Salts”

Question: What are “bath salts”?

Answer:

“Bath salts” is one way of referring to synthetic drugs that act as stimulants and/or hallucinogens. Some are specifically synthesized with a similar but slightly modified structure of the Schedule I controlled substance cathinone to avoid existing drug laws. Examples of other Schedule I controlled substances include heroin and LSD. “Bath salts” are snorted, ingested mixed with water, injected or inserted rectally or vaginally. “Bath salts” have no history of FDA approved medical use.

Question: What are the signs and symptoms of use?

Answer:

These compounds stimulate the body’s central nervous system, and cause effects similar to those caused by cocaine and amphetamines, including but not limited to increased heart rate and blood pressure, hallucinations, paranoia, suicidal thoughts, violent behavior, and nausea and vomiting. Symptoms may progress to renal failure or liver failure.

Question: What should be done if a person appears to have acute intoxication from bath salts?

Answer:

In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Persons exhibiting acute intoxication from bath salts should be referred to the Emergency Department. If necessary, the Poison Control Center may be reached at (800) 222-1222.

Question: How are these substances marketed?

Answer:

Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products believed to contain these chemicals, marketed as “bath salts”, “plant food” or “research chemicals”, have become drugs of abuse. They are sold as, crystals, powders and liquids with a variety of names including, but not limited to:

Bliss
Blue Light
Blue Silk
Charge
Cosmic Blast

Raving Dragon
Cloud 9
Purple Tranquility
Zoom 2
Aura

Disco Concentrate Bath Salts	Red Dove
Ivory Snow	Vanilla Sky
Ocean Burst	White Horse
Pure Ivory	Ivory Coast
Purple Wave	Energy 1
Snow Leopard	MDPK
Stardust (Star Dust)	Magic
Tranquility Bath Salts	Super Coke
White Dove	Amped
White Knight	Rave
White Rush	SnowBlind
Zeus 2	Crystal Bubbly
Ivory Wave	Eight Ballz
White Lightening	White Water Rapid
Hurricane Charlie	Avalanche
White Girl	Bizaro
Blue Magic	Voodoo Powder
Silverback Bath Salts	

The following “bath salts” have been recently identified as being sold specifically in New York:

Rave
SnowBlind
Crystal Bubbly
Eight Ballz
Bliss
White Water Rapid
Avalanche
Bizaro
Voodoo Powder

Question: What are the patterns of abuse?

Answer:

Although NYS Poison Control Centers have reported primary usage in the 20-26 year old range, use has also been reported in the age range of 18 to 48.

Question: What is the legal status of these compounds in New York State?

Answer:

New regulations, issued by the Department of Health (DOH) and approved by the Public Health and Health Planning Council, will expand the existing list of prohibited drugs and chemicals to include dozens more substances that are now used to make synthetic

drugs, ensuring that distributors can no longer skirt the law by simply modifying the drug's ingredients. In addition, the regulations will allow for the first time an owner of an establishment and an employee selling synthetic drugs to be charged with possession of an illicit substance. Further, to ensure the new rules are properly enforced, the regulations increase the penalties for those who violate the rules. Violators would face fines up to \$500 and potentially up to 15 days in jail for a first offense.

Question: What does the product/packaging look like?

Answer:

Labeling for synthetic "bath salts":

- Labels vary in colors – yellow, green, silver, purple, blue, red to indicate different products and strengths
- Often labeled as 'not for human consumption' or 'for cleaning purposes' to evade law enforcement scrutiny

Question: Where are these products sold?

Answer:

These products may be sold in drug paraphernalia shops, smoke shops, convenience stores or gas stations.

Question: How should these products be disposed of or destroyed?

Answer:

Retailers must cease all sales and distribution of these compounds. For information related to the disposal/destruction of these products, please contact the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management, at (518) 402-8678.

Synthetic Cannabinoids

Question: What are synthetic cannabinoids?

Answer:

Synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic marijuana are a large family of chemically unrelated structures that are created and marketed to mimic the action of Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana. Marijuana is listed as a Schedule I controlled substance in New York State. Schedule I controlled drugs are the most highly restricted drugs in New York. Other examples of Schedule I controlled substances include heroin and LSD. Synthetic cannabinoids are used to mimic the effects of marijuana.

The emergence of synthetic cannabinoids represents a recent phenomenon in the U.S. synthetic drug market. The substances are often labeled “not intended for human consumption,” but there has been a rapid and significant increase in abuse of these substances in the United States. The most common route of administration is by smoking (using a pipe, a water pipe or rolling the drug-spiked plant material in cigarette papers).

Below are structural classes that contain synthetic cannabinoids, and a nonexhaustive list of drugs within each structural class.

- i. Naphthoylindoles**, including but not limited to JWH 015, JWH 018, JWH 019, JWH 073, JWH 081, JWH 122, JWH 200, JWH 210, JWH 398, AM 2201, and WIN 55 212.
- ii. Naphthylmethylindoles**, including but not limited to JWH-175, and JWH-184.
- iii. Naphthoylpyrroles**, including but not limited to JWH 307.
- iv. Naphthylmethylindenes**, including but not limited to JWH-176.
- v. Phenylacetylindoles**, including but not limited to RCS-8 (SR-18), JWH 250, JWH 203, JWH-251, and JWH-302.
- vi. Cyclohexylphenols**, including but not limited to CP 47,497 (and homologues (analogs)), cannabicyclohexanol, and CP 55,940.
- vii. Benzoylindoles**, including but not limited to AM 694, Pravadoline (WIN 48,098), RCS 4, and AM-679.
- viii. [2,3-Dihydro-5-methyl-3-(4-morpholinylmethyl)pyrrolo [1,2,3-de]-1, 4-benzoxazin-6-yl]-1-naphthalenylmethanone**, including but not limited to WIN 55,212-2.
- ix. (6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6, 6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10, 10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol**, including but not limited to HU-210.
- x. Adamantoylindoles**, including but not limited to AM-1248.

Question: What are the signs and symptoms of use?

Answer:

The most common adverse effects that have been reported include increased heart rate and blood pressure, paranoid behavior, agitation, irritability, nausea and vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, headache, electrolyte abnormalities and seizures. Severe side effects may include acute renal failure and significant negative effects to the

cardiovascular and central nervous systems.

Question: What should be done if a person appears to have acute intoxication from synthetic cannabinoids?

Answer:

In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Persons exhibiting acute intoxication from synthetic cannabinoids should be referred to the Emergency Department. If necessary, the Poison Control Center may be reached at (800)222-1222.

Question: How are these substances marketed?

Answer:

Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products believed to contain these chemicals, marketed as incense, herbal mixtures or potpourri, have become drugs of abuse. They are sold under a variety of names including, but not limited to:

K2	Smoke
Spice	Chill X
Chronic Spice	Earth Impact
Spice Gold	Galaxy Gold
Spice Silver	Space Truckin
Skunk	Solar Flare
Black Mamba	Moon Rocks
Zohai	Aroma
Mr. Nice Guy	Scope
K3	Sky High
K3 Legal	Red X Dawn
Genie	Spice Smoked Blend
Sence	

Question: What are the patterns of abuse?

Answer:

Reports to New York Poison Control Centers indicate use in the teen and young adult population.

Question: What is the legal status of these compounds in New York State?

Answer:

New regulations, issued by the Department of Health (DOH) and approved by the Public Health and Health Planning Council, will expand the existing list of prohibited drugs and chemicals to include dozens more substances that are now used to make synthetic drugs, ensuring that distributors can no longer skirt the law by simply modifying the drug's ingredients. In addition, the regulations will allow for the first time an owner of an establishment and an employee selling synthetic drugs to be charged with possession of an illicit substance. Further, to ensure the new rules are properly enforced, the regulations increase the penalties for those who violate the rules. Violators would face fines up to \$500 and potentially up to 15 days in jail for a first offense.

Question: How should these products be disposed of or destroyed?

Answer:

Retailers must cease all sales and distribution of these compounds. For information related to the disposal/destruction of these products, please contact the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management, at (518) 402-8678.