

MDMA

Street name: Molly

Often sold as a "pure" form of ecstasy, Molly is usually sold in the form of a white powder or a pill. When you use MDMA, your brain releases serotonin and dopamine – chemicals that your brain produces naturally when you're having a good time. MDMA makes users feel euphoric, energetic, and uninhibited – that's why it's a popular drug at clubs and festivals. In addition to that euphoric feeling, though, Molly also causes unpleasant and potentially harmful short-term effects such as shortness of breath and increased heart rate. One of the most dangerous side effects of MDMA is that it interferes with your body temperature – many users suffer from dehydration and heat stroke.

The effects of Molly can linger long after the energetic, euphoric feeling wears off. MDMA users often experience long-term side effects such as:

- Insomnia
- Depression and anxiety
- Body aches and fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Trouble concentrating
- Memory problems
- Organ damage, including brain, liver and kidney damage

Don't let the name fool you. "Molly" might sound innocent – but this designer drug is bad news.

SYNTHETIC HEROIN

Street name: Krokodil

This Russian based heroin substitute contains a combination of codeine (a drug found in many over-the-counter medicines such as painkillers and cough syrup) and a bunch of toxic chemicals such as gasoline, paint thinner and hydrochloric acid.

Krokodil gets its name from the disgusting and deadly effects it has on users' bodies: Addicts quickly develop green, scaly skin, rotten flesh and infections at the injection site.

Once injected, Krokodil produces an intense, short-lived high that is similar to the euphoric rush that you get from heroin. After the feeling wears off, users begin experiencing withdrawal symptoms right away – that's why users get hooked so quickly.

Just how deadly is Krokodil? Once they start using the drug, most addicts only live for two or three years. The few that don't end up dead often end up scarred and disfigured – some even have to have body parts amputated due to severe infections. What's more, because synthetic heroin is injected, users are at risk of exposure to HIV and other diseases.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Find out how much you know about synthetic drugs with this quiz.

1. "Synthetic drugs" are also known as:
A.) Plastics B.) Designer drugs
C.) MDPVs D.) Plant food
2. Which is NOT a street name for synthetic marijuana?
A.) Spice B.) K2
C.) Zohai D.) MDMA
3. Synthetic versions of marijuana, heroin and cocaine are safe alternatives to the real drugs.
A.) True B.) False
4. Krokodil is a deadly heroin substitute that contains:
A.) Gasoline B.) Hydrochloric acid
C.) Paint thinner D.) All of these
5. "Smiles" is a street name for:
A.) 2C-I B.) Synthetic marijuana
C.) Yaba D.) Molly

Answers: 1. B; 2. D; 3. B; 4. D; 5. A

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SYNTHETIC DRUGS



DESIGNER DANGER

WHAT ARE SYNTHETIC DRUGS?

Synthetic drugs are lab-created chemicals that have been designed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs. Sometimes called “designer drugs,” synthetic drugs are usually created in secret drug labs. Synthetic drugs are sometimes sold online or even in stores – they’re usually available in packages with labels that say things like “incense,” “bath salts,” or “plant food.”

The people who make and sell synthetic or designer drugs often claim that their creations are “fake” or “legal” versions of illegal drugs. Some teens (and even some adults!) mistakenly believe that these “fake” drugs are safer than their “real” counterparts – but that’s where they’re dead wrong.

“FAKE DRUGS”

Real Risks

Synthetic drugs are far from safe. When you buy a packet of bath salts or a bag of synthetic marijuana, you can’t really be sure what you’re getting. Because synthetic drugs are unregulated, there’s no way of knowing how the chemicals in synthetic drugs will affect your brain and body. Nobody knows exactly what’s in a bag of fake weed or a yaba pill.

What’s more, most synthetic drugs are so new that nobody knows what they can do to you in the long term.

In the short term, though, these so-called “fake” versions of weed, cocaine and heroin have very real consequences: Several teens and young adults have landed in the ER after experimenting with synthetic drugs. A few have even died.

Think synthetic drugs are safe? Think again.



SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

Street names: *Blaze, Bliss, Bombay Blue, Dank, Fake Weed, K2, Skunk, Spice, Zohai*

Synthetic marijuana is made up of dried herbs and plants that are sprayed with lab-created chemicals that mimic the effects of marijuana. These chemicals tend to be stronger – and more dangerous – than the natural chemicals found in marijuana. You may have heard or read news stories about teens getting sick or freaking out after smoking synthetic marijuana.

The short-term effects of fake weed include:

- Insomnia
- Paranoia
- Hallucinations & delusions
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness
- Increased heart rate
- Lowered blood pressure & body temperature

SYNTHETIC COCAINE (BATH SALTS)

Street names: *Arctic Blast, Blue Magic, Cloud 9, Cloud 10, Fake Cocaine, Ivory Fresh, Ivory Wave, Lady Bubbles, Snow Leopard, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, Wicked X,*

Sometimes sold as “synthetic cocaine,” bath salts produce effects similar to those produced by cocaine, or methamphetamine. Bath salts come in a white or tan-colored powder form and contain synthetic chemicals such as mephedrone or methylenedioxypyrovalerone (“MDPV” for short). Users typically swallow, inject, or smoke bath salts to produce an intense, long-lasting high.

The short-term effects of bath salts include:

- Intense hallucinations
- Panic attacks
- Anxiety and paranoia
- Teeth grinding
- Increased blood pressure
- Nausea
- Difficulty breathing
- Poor short-term memory

Additionally, there is evidence that links bath salts to violent, aggressive behavior and serious health problems such as liver or kidney failure.

2C-1

Street name: *Smiles*

2C-1 is a synthetic drug that mimics the effects of MDMA and LSD. It is usually sold as a white powder or sometimes in liquid or pill form, and users typically swallow it or snort it.

Although 2C-1 is a relatively new drug, it has been linked to overdoses in several states and is believed to cause serious medical problems like kidney failure, seizures and even death.

Users who don’t overdose, or die, experience intense, terrifying effects including:

- Hallucinations
- Excitability
- Paranoia
- Dangerously high blood pressure
- Nausea
- Muscle tension
- Violent behavior
- Increase in body temperature

25-i

Street name: *N-BOMe*

25-i is sometimes sold as “synthetic mescaline” or “synthetic LSD” – but there’s nothing synthetic about the risks associated with this drug. N-BOMe is typically sold on sheets of blotter paper (like LSD), or in liquid form in small vials with droppers.

Just a drop or two of this powerful chemical can cause:

- Strong hallucinations
- Increased heart rate
- Shaking
- Panic attacks
- Paranoia
- Insomnia
- Chills
- Trouble concentrating

In stronger doses, 25-i can cause seizures, loss of consciousness and organ failure. Several deaths have been linked to the drug, and researchers are still trying to learn more about what long-term usage can do to your brain and body.

YABA

Street name: *Crazy Medicine, Hitler’s Drug, Nazi Speed*

Yaba – sometimes spelled “Ya Ba” or “Yah Bah” – is a combination of methamphetamine and caffeine, typically sold in the form of small, brightly colored pills. These pills can be swallowed or crushed up and smoked. Yaba produces a euphoric rush that makes it a popular club drug.

Common short-term effects of Yaba include:

- Insomnia
- Anxiety
- Hypothermia
- Aggressive behavior
- Increased blood pressure
- Confusion

More serious effects associated with Yaba include stroke, convulsions and death. Like most other drugs, Yaba also interferes with your ability to make good decisions – so Yaba users are more likely to engage in risky behavior like having unprotected sex or driving under the influence.

