



Synthetic Drug known as Bath Salts



What's in Bath Salts?

A white powder sold in tea-bag size packets labeled **Bath Salts, Plant Food or Ant Killer** is actually a new high, not a toiletry product. The chemical is a man-made version of the khat plant. This type of synthetic drug is called a cathinone substitute and may contain methylone, mephedrone, MDPV, DMAA or 2-DPMP or related ingredients. The crystals may contain the anesthetic lidocaine and other contaminants. They are sold online or in convenience stores, but just because they're sold over-the-counter does NOT make them safe. There are various brand names: Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, Zoom2, Pixie Dust, Sextacy, Ocean Burst, Purple Rain, Hurricane Charlie and many more.

Why do people snort bath salts?

The products were rumored to be legal substitutes for cocaine, ecstasy or ritalin. Until recently, the ingredients were legal. In the USA as of July 2012, the most common ingredients for bath salts are illegal to buy, sell or possess. It is scheduled as a Class I drug with penalties similar to marijuana possession. New synthetic chemicals are being created to get around the law.

How popular are Bath Salts?

Poison Centers have been tracking reports of bath salts cases. In 2010, there were 303 cases in the USA³ and 23 in Florida.⁴ In 2011, there were 6,072 cases in the USA³ and 165 in Florida.⁴ Jan - June 2012, there were 1707 cases in USA³ and 53 in Florida.⁴



What happens to people abuse bath salts?

The nervous system is stimulated, creating a burst of strength along with high blood pressure, fast heart rate, increased alertness, anxiety, fever and muscle cramps. Unlike cocaine, there are frightening delusions, hallucinations and paranoia. There are multiple accounts of people thinking that monsters or policemen are chasing them. This has resulted in combativeness, assaults and suicides. Even small amounts of the drug can cause users to feel out of control and unable to trust people who are trying to care for them. Users have ended up in hospitals sedated heavily and on breathing machines until the agitation and combativeness got under control.⁴ Some never recovered and died from the effects of seizures, high fever, heart or kidney damage.⁴

**For answers or advice after exposure to a drug,
call FL Poison Information Center free hotline 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222 or visit
www.PoisonCenterTampa.org.**

1. [Parents 360 Synthetic Drugs](#): Bath Salts, K2/Spice; www.partnershipatdrugfree.org, Feb 2012
2. Florida Fusion Center Brief. Office of Statewide Intelligence. FDLE. 1/14/11
3. American Association of Poison Control Centers. www.aapcc.org
4. FL Poison Information Center query. <https://159.178.132.54/>⁴