



Phencyclidine “PCP”

At a Glance

What are they?

- ◆ PCP is a white crystalline powder that can dissolve in liquids
- ◆ It is classified as a hallucinogen (a class of drugs that cause hallucinations (distortions of reality) Users see images, hear sounds, and feel sensations that seem very real by do not exist)
- ◆ It can be mixed easily with dyes and is often sold in a variety of tablet, capsule, and colored powder forms
- ◆ The effects of PCP last between 4-6 hours
- ◆ Users may become violent or suicidal and are therefore dangerous to themselves and others
- ◆ PCP poses great risk for young people, even moderate use of the drug can negatively affect the hormones associated with normal growth and development
- ◆ PCP can also harm the learning process in teens

Did you Know?

- ◆ PCP was developed in the 1950's as an anesthetic, but its use was discontinued because it caused patients to become agitated, delusional, and irrational
- ◆ In the United States an estimated 6 million residents aged 12 and older have used PCP at least once in their lifetime
- ◆ PCP is a schedule II substance under the Controlled Substances Act, this means it has a high potential for abuse
- ◆ Abuse of PCP can lead to severe psychological and/or physical dependence
- ◆ In 2013, 90,000 people in the United States aged 12 and older reported use of PCP in the past year



Street Names

There are many other names

- ◆ Animal tranq
- ◆ Black dust
- ◆ Boat
- ◆ Cliffhanger
- ◆ Dipper
- ◆ Dust joint
- ◆ Goon Dust
- ◆ Magic Dust
- ◆ Paz
- ◆ Peter Pan
- ◆ Shermans
- ◆ Trank

How is it used?

- ◆ In powder form, PCP users **snort it** or **smoke it** by applying it to a leafy substance such as marijuana, mint, parsley, or oregano
- ◆ In tablet or capsule form, PCP users **orally ingest** or **swallow it**
- ◆ Users are increasingly dipping marijuana or tobacco cigarettes in liquid PCP and smoking them

What are the side effects?

At Low Doses:

- ◆ Increase in breathing rate, blood pressure, and heart beat
- ◆ Breathing becomes shallow
- ◆ Flushing of the skin and profuse sweating
- ◆ Numbness of the arms, hands, legs, and feet
- ◆ Loss of muscle coordination

At High Doses:

- ◆ Blood pressure, heart rate, and breathing drops, accompanied by nausea, vomiting, blurred vision, flicking up and down of the eyes, drooling, loss of balance, and dizziness
- ◆ Seizures, coma, and death which often results from accidental injury or suicide
- ◆ PCP use can resemble the symptoms of schizophrenia, including delusions and paranoia
- ◆ It can lead to long-term memory loss, difficulty with speech and/or thought, depression and weight loss



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Information From:
National Institute on Drug Abuse
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