



Synthetic Cannabinoids

“Synthetic Marijuana”



At a Glance

What is it?

- ◆ Synthetic marijuana is a type of synthetic cannabinoid, synthetic cannabinoids are a growing number of man-made mind-altering chemicals
- ◆ They are sprayed or dried plant material that is then shredded so that it can be smoked (herbal incense) or sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled in e-cigs (liquid incense)
- ◆ These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they are related to chemicals found in marijuana



Street Names

There are many other names

- ◆ K2
- ◆ Fake Weed
- ◆ Bliss
- ◆ Black Mamba
- ◆ Bombay Blue
- ◆ Genie
- ◆ Kush
- ◆ Kronic
- ◆ Skunk
- ◆ Moon Rocks
- ◆ Spice

How is it used?

- ◆ Smoked in rolled joints, pipes, or e-cigarettes
- ◆ Made it into a tea and/or used in brownie recipes
- ◆ Taken in vaporized form through the nose or liquid form and “vaped” in e-cigarettes

What are the side effects?

Short-Term Effects:

- ◆ **Psychological Effects:** Unresponsiveness, loss of consciousness, confusion, altered sense of time, extreme anxiety, panic attacks, severe paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, psychosis, potential suicide, and involvement in homicides
- ◆ **Physical Effects:** Nausea, vomiting, heavy sweating, uncontrolled/spastic body movements, acute kidney injury, rapid heart rate, high blood pressure, reduced blood supply to the heart, heart attack, convulsions, seizures, and strokes

Long-Term Effects:

- ◆ The long-term effects on humans are not fully known, but poison center experts report that effects of synthetic marijuana can be life-threatening
- ◆ It can be addictive and lead to withdrawal
- ◆ After repeated and long-term use of the drug, users can experience forgetfulness and confusion and some have experienced paralysis



Did You Know?

- ◆ Because of this similarity, synthetic cannabinoids are sometimes misleadingly called “synthetic marijuana” or “fake weed” and they are often marketed as a “safe” alternative to that drug; however, the truth is that these drugs affect the brain much more powerfully than marijuana and their actual effects can be unpredictable and in some cases severe or even life-threatening
- ◆ Because the chemicals used in Spice have a high potential for abuse and no medical benefit, the Drug Enforcement Administration has made many of the active chemicals most frequently found in Spice illegal. However, the people who make these products try to avoid these laws by using different chemicals in their mixtures.

<p>Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition DrugFreeJackson.com</p>	<p>Information From: National Institute on Drug Abuse Above the Influence Drug Free World</p>
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