

Synthetic drugs are dangerous and addictive. They cause unpredictable behavior and life-threatening reactions. As of July 1, 2012, they are illegal to possess, use, buy, or sell.



SYNTHETIC DRUGS:

Not Your Grandma's Bath Salts



What are Synthetic Drugs?

Synthetic drugs are unsafe chemical substances created in laboratories to produce effects comparable to those of common street drugs. For example, herbal "incense" is similar to marijuana and "bath salts" are similar to cocaine.

Herbal "Incense"

Herbal "incense" is made by spraying plant material with a combination of chemicals. It looks like small pieces of crumbled leaves and comes in small, professional-looking packets. Although marketed as "incense" with a warning "not for human consumption," the product is commonly smoked or ingested.

"Bath Salts"

"Bath salts" are white, off-white, or tan crystals or powder. They may also come in capsule or tablet form. The packaging varies from bottles or tubs to small foil packets. Again, the name is misleading as they are not designed for bath use. Instead, they are usually snorted, but may also be smoked, ingested, or mixed into a solution and injected. They may be marketed as other household substances such as plant food or fertilizer.



Other Terms for Herbal "Incense"

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Blaze | Spice |
| Blonde | Smoke |
| Genie | Summit |
| K2 | Ultra |
| Mr. Smiley | Yucatan Fire |
| Skunk | |

Other Terms for "Bath Salts"

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Bliss | Red Dove |
| Blue Silk | Scarface |
| Cloud Nine | Star Dust |
| Hurricane | Space Dust |
| Charlie | Tranquility |
| Ivory Wave | Vanilla Sky |
| Ocean Snow | White Rush |
| Rave On | White Lightning |
| Raz | Zoom |

a message from
**Lapeer County Prosecutor
Byron Konschuh**



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“Bath-Salt”-Related Calls to Poison Control Centers

	Number of Calls
2009	0
2010	302
2011*	2,237

American Association of Poison Control Centers. *Data reflects calls received from January 1, 2011, through May 12, 2011.

What is the Problem?

As little as two years ago, herbal incense meant potpourri and bath salts was something to pour into the tub. Now, these previously unknown synthetic drugs are widely available, causing violent behavior, dangerous overdoses, and other lasting consequences.

Who uses Synthetic Drugs?

Synthetic drug use is a problem among people of all ages, economic groups, and lifestyles, but especially among adults in their 20s and 30s.

People begin using synthetic drugs for a variety of reasons. Many experiment with the drugs due to peer pressure. Others are bored, curious, or looking for ways to cope with problems or stress. Some mistakenly believe that synthetic drugs are safer than other street drugs, perhaps because they were legal at first.

What are the Risks?

Use of herbal incense often causes

- agitation / anxiety,
- rapid heart rate (110-115 bpm),
- elevated blood pressure,
- nausea / vomiting, and
- seizures / tremors.

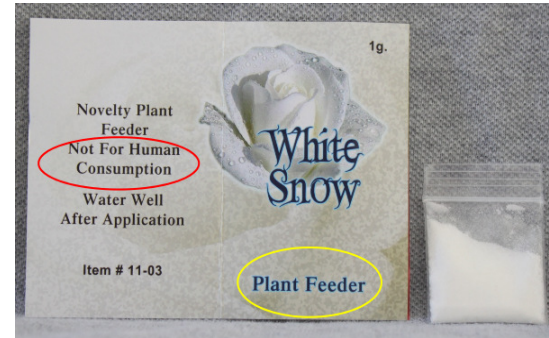
Use of bath salts produces many of the same effects, along with

- pale skin,
- profuse sweating,
- uncontrolled body movements,
- insomnia, and
- chest pains.

Even more concerning than the physical symptoms, however, are the psychological ones. Both types of drugs cause paranoia, delusions, and suicidal thoughts, which may continue long after the actual drug use. This often leads to or is accompanied by irrational and violent behavior. These drugs further present a high risk of overdose, causing unconsciousness and even death. Additionally, the drugs are highly addictive, and withdrawal symptoms may be worse than symptoms of use.



The chemical makeup of synthetic drugs also varies greatly, even among identically packaged drugs, so response is unpredictable. Also, because synthetic drugs are relatively new, long term effects are unknown. However, long term psychiatric care may be necessary after even brief use.



What is the Law?

Beginning July 1, 2012, it is illegal for an individual to manufacture, create, deliver, or possess with intent to deliver synthetic drugs in Michigan. Violators face a felony conviction with up to seven years in prison and a fine of \$5,000. It is also a felony punishable by up to two years in prison to possess synthetic drugs and a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail to use synthetic drugs.

The law also prohibits stores from selling synthetic drugs, or products with similar ingredients or that cause similar effects. Doing so is a four-year felony.

Various types of conduct involving synthetic drugs may also be illegal under federal and local law.

Synthetic Drug Use in Mid-Michigan

A 15-year-old girl in Troy drew attention by screaming and behaving strangely at a local park during a series of hallucinations caused by smoking K2/Spice.

A Waterford teen struggled with a four-year addiction to K2/Spice, including being rushed to the hospital multiple times, fighting with family members, and stealing to support his addiction. When his mother got curious about the “flavored tobacco” he was smoking, she tried it. “Within minutes I was sick, I was dizzy, nauseated. My equilibrium was off,” she said.

While high on Spice, a 19-year-old and his friend from Farmington Hills attacked his family with baseball bats, killing his father and critically injuring his mother and brother.

A 36-year-old Houghton man died of a bath salts overdose after trying bath salts for the first time.