

THE EFFECTS OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS CAN BE SEVERE

Very severe paranoia often causes users to harm themselves or others. Effects reported to Poison Control Centers include:

- Suicidal Thoughts
- Dramatically Increased Strength
- Violent Behavior
- Confusion
- Hallucinations
- Accelerated Heart Rate
- Hypertension
- Chest Pain
- Serious Injury and or Death

The desired effects may begin in minutes and last several hours while unwanted adverse effects may last for days.



"BATH SALTS" ARE NOT BATH SALTS

What are Bath Salts anyway? The term is used for a man-made, chemical stimulant drug. Generally, stimulants are a class of drugs that elevate mood and increase feelings of well-being, energy and alertness. Amphetamines or speed are examples of stimulant drugs. Bath Salts is just the street name, intended to keep the drugs under the radar. They don't particularly look like bath salts except maybe for the color. Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV), mephedrone, methylone and now alpha-PVP or ethylone are the chemicals found most often in Bath Salts. They are commonly ingested orally or snorted through the nose and are very dangerous.



SYNTHETIC DRUGS ARE STILL DRUGS AND CAN LEAD TO DEATH.

For an emergency or drug overdose call **911**

For questions about Flakka use, abuse or treatment, please call the **Broward Sheriff's Office Drug Court Treatment Division Synthetic Drug Information Line 954.375.6237 or 211**

If your community or group would like someone to speak about this topic, please call the **Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Law Enforcement Administration 954.321.5076**



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BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE SYNTHETIC DRUGS A LOOK INSIDE



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SYNTHETIC DRUGS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Synthetic drugs were originally created to avoid the provisions of existing drug laws. Usually these drugs are prepared by modifying the chemical structure of existing drugs to create a derivative of the original form. Many of these substances used to be sold at local convenience stores or purchased online, but most are now illegal. They are often labeled as or referred to by various misleading terms such as research chemicals, bath salts or plant food.

A SAFE ALTERNATIVE? NO WAY!

This is a very important topic to address because synthetic drugs are dangerous. They are often more dangerous than well-known illegal drugs. It is vital that parents communicate this fact with their children. Many people mistakenly believe that if they can buy it in a store or online, it is not as dangerous as illegal drugs.

NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION?

The majority of these drugs are labeled "not for human consumption" and by labeling these products with this description, companies are attempting to skirt the Federal Analog Act which forbids drugs that are "substantially similar" to already classified drugs from being sold for human consumption.

NAMES OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Synthetic drugs can come in a wide variety of names, these are the most popular:

- Ivory Wave
- Diamond
- Wicked X
- Bath Salts
- Fire & Ice
- Gravel
- K2
- Magic
- Flakka
- Spice
- Mystic
- Kush
- 420

FLAKKA DEADLY DESIGNER DRUG HITTING SOUTH FLORIDA STREETS

Flakka is one of the latest synthetic drugs to hit the streets of Broward County. Although the drug is synthetic, its dangers are real.

Flakka, also spelled Flocka, is an illegal drug. The active ingredient in Flakka, Alpha-PVP, is sometimes marketed as a research chemical. When consumed, Alpha-PVP is extremely dangerous and has caused severe side effects and death.

On the street Flakka may be mixed with other dangerous illegal street drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, causing even more dangerous and deadly effects.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is it? Flakka is the most current version of synthetic bath salts stimulants containing the dangerous chemical compound Alpha-PVP, which mimics symptoms similar to crystal methamphetamine.

What does it look like? Flakka is a crystalline substance resembling rock candy. It also comes in powder form.

How is it used? Flakka can be injected, poured into capsules and ingested, dissolved in the mouth, vaporized in an e-cigarette or smoked in a joint.



THE SIDE EFFECTS

- Severe Hallucinations
- Hyperthermia
- Rapid Heart Beat
- Anxiety
- Extreme Paranoia
- Combativeness
- Psychosis
- Agitation
- Kidney Failure
- Excited Delirium - a Medical Emergency!

FLAKKA DANGER!

Due to its extreme profit margin, some drug dealers are selling Flakka as cocaine or crystal methamphetamine. The similar look of these substances makes it almost impossible for the user to know the difference. The side effects of Flakka however are even more severe. The dosage amount leading to the onset of Excited Delirium is unknown.

Excited Delirium is a Medical Emergency! Someone experiencing Excited Delirium exhibits signs of:

- Bizarre and/or Aggressive Behavior
- Severe Hallucinations
- Extreme Paranoia
- Disorientation and Panicking
- Speech Disturbances
- Insensitivity to Pain
- Dramatically Increased Strength
- Elevated Body Temperature (Profuse Sweating)

Due to the elevated body temperature, abnormal strength and insensitivity to pain, the kidneys and other body systems begin to break down causing internal organ failure - often resulting in death.

As of Spring 2015, local emergency rooms are seeing more than 30 patients per day due to severe side effects of Flakka use.