



“Spice,” Synthetic Marijuana



What is synthetic (man-made) marijuana?

“Spice” or “K-2” are just two names for products sold as incense. Other product names are Genie, Yucatan Fire, King Krypto, Mr. Nice Guy, K-3, Red Magic, Blueberry Medication and Super Skunk. The incense is sprayed with one or more chemicals which may include:

- JWH-015, -018, -019, -073, -200, -398
- HU-210, -211
- CP 47, 497.



Why do people smoke synthetic marijuana?

Instead of burning the incense as a fragrance, some people smoke it as a drug. Its popularity was due to its former legal status and the fact that the chemicals do not test positive on a THC drug test. Unlike natural marijuana, there is no way to know all the ingredients put into the synthetic products. Many herbal products are contaminated with impurities.

Is it illegal to buy or possess?

As of March 2011, it is illegal and scheduled as a Class I drug with penalties similar to marijuana possession. When one ingredient becomes illegal in a state, sellers often import another synthetic marijuana product with a different chemical ingredient.

Are there any dangers to smoking this incense?

Synthetic marijuana has caused agitation (extreme nervousness), a fast heartbeat, increased blood pressure, tremors (shaking), vomiting, hallucinations and seizures. Many who have smoked the incense say it's not the mellow high that they expected. In 2010, over 1900 calls to poison control centers have involved bad trips and illness. Many people ended up in hospitals. In addition to the drug effects, smoking can cause lung damage.

For answers to questions or advice after a poisoning incident, call the Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center hotline 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.