



Synthetic chemicals known as Bath Salts or Plant Food



What's in Bath Salts?

“Bath Salts” is the most common term referring to a set of synthetic drugs sold as “Bath Salts,” “Plant Food,” or labeled for other uses “not for human consumption.” The active ingredient(s) may be one of several synthetic drugs similar to natural cathinone psychostimulants found in the khat plant:

Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV)	Fluoromethcathinone
Methylenedioxyamphetamines (methylone)	Methoxymethcathinone
Methylmethcathinone (Mephedrone)	Dimethylamylamine (DMAA)
Diphenylmethylpiperidine (2DPMP)	

The crystals or capsules may also contain the anesthetic lidocaine. These drugs are known by various brand names: Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, Zoom2, Pixie Dust, Sextacy, Ocean Burst, Purple Rain, Hurricane Charlie and many more. The specific substance(s) in any one brand may vary because of availability or legality.

Why do people inhale and ingest these substances?

The products are marketed as legal substitutes for amphetamines or cocaine. Until recently, the ingredients were legal and could be purchased at smoke shops or convenience stores. A number of states and the DEA have enacted emergency rules classifying some chemicals as Schedule 1 drugs so that possession is illegal.

How popular is the use of these products?

Throughout the US, Poison Centers³ have been tracking calls about human exposures to these products. In 2010, there were 291 calls. In January 2011 alone, there were 373 cases.

What happens to people who snort or smoke bath salts?

The nervous system is stimulated producing high blood pressure, fast heart rate, increased alertness, anxiety and/or muscle cramps. There may be frightening delusions, hallucinations and paranoia and this may present as combativeness, seizures, or assaults. Deaths potentially related to these products are being investigated.

For more information or for medical assistance after exposure to these agents, call the **New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.**

