



“Spice,” Synthetic Marijuana



What is synthetic (man-made) marijuana (THC)?

“Spice” or “K-2” are just two names for products sold as incense or for other non-human consumption uses. 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?

These products are advertised as “not intended for human consumption,” thus bypassing FDA regulation. They are smoked by people looking for a psychoactive experience similar to marijuana. Advantages are their “legal” status and that they may not test positive on a THC drug test. Unlike natural marijuana, there is no way to know what their effects might be. Herbal products may also be contaminated with impurities.

Is it illegal to buy or possess?

As of March 2011, some of these agents have been scheduled as Class I drugs 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 that is still legal to sell.

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. The effects vary by the specific substances being used. In 2010, over 1900 calls to poison control centers have involved undesired effects.

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

