

Synthetic Marijuana: Nothing Natural About It

Synthetic marijuana products contain lab-made chemicals similar in structure to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. One of five different versions of the chemical is sprayed onto plant material and marketed as incense labeled “not for human consumption”, but is smoked in much the same ways as marijuana.

The substances, available in Europe since 2001, are illegal at this point but are still being sold in American head shops and convenience stores. They are popular with marijuana aficionados and others seeking a quick, legal high and hoping to still pass a drug test.

The ban is designed to protect users from symptoms which have been landing even experienced marijuana smokers in emergency rooms at unacceptable rates. Many users are unprepared for the intense, often frightening hallucinations and feelings produced by this man-made chemical.

Symptoms mimicking psychosis are common with synthetic marijuana use, which come and go unpredictably. It is still unclear with permanent psychosis is possible.

Drug tests are now available for the seven main chemical compounds found in legal and banned synthetic marijuana products from Redwood Toxicology and MedTox Clinical, among others.

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Effects on the Mind & Body

- dry mouth
- high blood pressure/pounding heart
- rapid, shallow breathing
- flu-like symptoms– vomiting, chills
- numbness, tingling
- anxiety, paranoia, fear, confusion
- visual & auditory hallucinations
- impaired motor skills
- involuntary movements
- seizures, tremors
- coma, unconsciousness
- organ failure/death

Other Names and Brands

- K2
- Black Mamba
- Spice
- Bayou Blaster
- Blaze
- Red X Dawn
- Mad Hatter



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