



FAST FACTS

A message for health care providers



Substance Abuse Alert: Bath Salts

What are they?

Unlike traditional cosmetic bath salts, which are packaged and sold for adding to bath water for soaking and cleaning, the drugs sold as "bath salts" have no legitimate use for bathing and are intended for substance abuse. These products can contain stimulant compounds such as 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) or 4-methylmethcathinone (mephedrone).

These central nervous system stimulants have effects similar to cocaine and amphetamines. They are specifically synthesized with a similar but slightly modified structure of the Schedule I controlled substance Cathinone to avoid existing drug laws. Examples of other Schedule I controlled substances include heroin and LSD.

How are they taken?

"Bath salts" are snorted, ingested mixed with water, injected or inserted rectally or vaginally. "Bath salts" have no history of FDA approved medical use.

How are they marketed?

Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products containing these chemicals, marketed as "bath salts", "plant food" or "research chemicals", have become drugs of abuse. They are sold as, crystals, powders and liquids with a variety of names including, but not limited to:

Blue Silk	Blue Magic	Scarface
Charge+	Silverback Bath Salts	White Dove
Cosmic Blast	Raving Dragon	Explosion
Disco Concentrate Bath Salts	Cloud 9	4-MMC
Ivory Snow	Purple Tranquility	Meow-Meow
Ocean Burst	Zoom 2	M-Cat
Pure Ivory	Aura	Bounce
Purple Wave	Red Dove	Bubbles
Snow Leopard	Vanilla Sky	Mad Cow
Stardust (Star Dust)	Bliss	Eight Balls Ultra Premium
Tranquility Bath Salts	White Horse	Sky Blitz
White Dove	Ivory Coast	Up Powder
White Knight	Energy 1	Bolivian
White Rush	MDPK	Himalyan
Zeus 2	Magic	Ivory Gold
Ivory Wave	Super Coke	Lust
White Lightening	PV	Magic Powder
Hurricane Charlie	Ocean	
White Girl	Charge Plus	

Is this an emerging drug abuse issue?

Over the past several months, poison control centers throughout the United States have received hundreds of calls regarding instances of poisoning from products containing the subject compounds, including instances resulting in accidental death and suicide. Calls received by poison control centers generally reflect only a small percentage of actual instances of poisoning.

What are the patterns of abuse?

Although NYS Poison Control Centers have reported primary usage in the 20-26 year old range, use has also been reported in the age range of 18 to 48.

What are the signs and symptoms of use?

These compounds stimulate the body's central nervous system, and cause effects similar to those caused by cocaine and amphetamines, including but not limited to:

- increased heart rate and blood pressure
- hallucinations
- paranoia
- suicidal thoughts
- violent behavior
- nausea and vomiting
- Symptoms may progress to rhabdomyolysis, renal failure or liver failure.

What is the legal status of these compounds in NYS?

Effective May 20, 2011, these compounds are prohibited from sale and distribution pursuant to an Order for Summary Action signed by the Commissioner of Health. Any individual or entity that receives notice of the Order will be prohibited from selling or distributing products containing these compounds.

How may I contact the Poison Control Center?

The Poison Control Center can be reached at **(800) 222-1222**

Video from Dateline NBC

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzITaNZqlj0>