



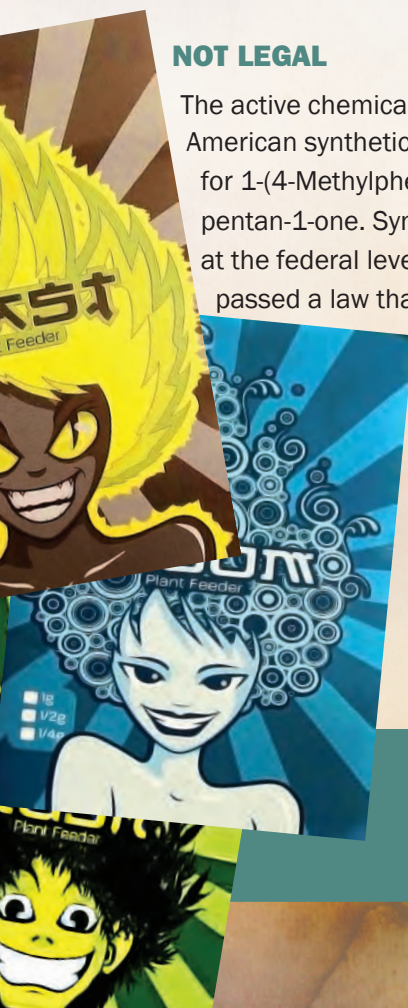
NOSE POISON

Synthetic cocaine is a problem throughout the western world. First identified in the U.K., retail cocaine substitutes are creating problems for people looking to get high while escaping detection. Sold as bath salts in psychedelic packets through online and real-world head shops, fake cocaine is a combination of chemicals that are, according to some researchers and many who have experience with the drug, actually more dangerous than the real thing.

NOT LEGAL

The active chemical in most of the American synthetic cocaine is MDPV, short for 1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl pentan-1-one. Synthetic cocaine is illegal at the federal level. Congress passed a law that made 26 types of substances, including synthetic cocaine illegal. Use synthetic cocaine and face serious penalties, including jail.

You've been warned.



NOT SAFE

As with many widely available substitute highs, MDPV is a research chemical. That means that scientists are still testing its effects. Because of the risks, these test are usually performed on pigs or rats and other rodents. These animals often die.

MDPV is a powerful stimulant, in slang an 'upper.' It makes everything in your body work faster than it is supposed to. It's like putting rocket fuel in a regular car, sending it racing hundreds of times faster than it should, stripping the gears, melting the tires, blowing off the paint and destroying the whole machine. MDPV is just one of the ingredients in these so-called bath salts and it is considered many times more powerful than cocaine. The negative symptoms of MDPV use can be brief or long-lasting but they are always severe.

NOT TRUE

Because they're labeled "not for human consumption" and sold as bath salts, cocaine substitutes aren't required to list their ingredients. An independent study discovered that 18 different brands were using a host of illegal substances and research chemicals as their active ingredients—some of which were known to cause heart attacks, severe paranoia and other dangerous effects. One brand in particular claimed to have switched its active chemical from one that had become illegal to a different, still uncontrolled substance, but had actually not done so. They had only changed the packaging. Anyone tested for the illegal substance would have been facing jail time.

It's like putting rocket fuel in a regular car...

RESOURCES

Inspirations Youth report on Synthetic Cocaine

<http://www.inspirationsyouth.com/Synthetic-Cocaine-Ivory-Wave-Bath-Salt.asp>

Directory of narcotics anonymous meetings

<http://alcoholism.about.com/cs/meetings/a/blna.htm>

Wikipedia's entry on MDPV

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MDPV>

in the know

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SYNTHETIC COCAINE

unbearable addiction



some individuals have compared it to crack

THINK ABOUT IT

Companies that try to sell you powders that change your brain are not interested in your well-being. They are drug dealers looking to make money off of you any way they can and fake cocaine is the perfect way for them to do it. Why? The chemicals they use are so potentially addictive that many have compared it to crack. When someone is coming down from a bath salt high, all they can think of is getting another packet.

Fake coke vendors bet on your addiction and bank on your self-destruction.



IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

Curious about the effects of fake coke or how it feels? If you try fake cocaine, here's what you'll encounter right away:

- Intense sweating
- Higher blood pressure
- Tightening blood-vessels
- Hyperawareness: an inability to stop paying attention, becoming easily startled
- Serious agitation and annoyance
- Anxiety and fear
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of ability to sleep
- Possible long, intense panic attacks

After those go away you'll be hyper energetic and unable to sit still for 6-8 hours.

Coming down from the effects is even worse. There's an intense craving for more. A feeling of dirtiness that seems to come from inside. The comedown is characterized as similar to methamphetamine: depression, absolute loss of energy, headache, more anxiety, severely bloodshot eyes, stomach or kidney pain, irregular heartbeat. These continue for another 4-8 hours.

insane

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

If you continue to use fake cocaine, expect terrible results. Severe weight loss will leave your body ravaged and looking like a skeleton. Long-term lack of sleep can lead to psychosis, fear or a feeling of unreality that never goes away. Some even report serious paranoia and audio hallucinations. Social isolation becomes a concern as well. The real problem is that no one really knows the long-term effects of chronic use because it has not been reliably studied. Stories, however, are horrific.

Individuals mention feeling insane, unable to trust themselves, not sleeping for days, spending massive amounts of money and being unable to control their use of the drug until it becomes so unpleasant they have to force themselves to stop. This mimics the well known long-term effects of other powerful stimulants such as diet pills, cocaine, methamphetamine and Benzedrine.

THE BINGE

Just like with methamphetamine, those who use encounter a terrible cycle of abuse. It begins with experimentation. They get a little stimulated and curiosity causes them to take more. It feels exciting, interesting, and gives them a lot of energy. Coming down makes them feel just the opposite, so they take more. It takes a bigger dose to maintain the high, and they want to get even higher, so doses continue to increase. This roller coaster continues—higher highs, lower

unbearable

lows—until the feelings become unbearable or they can no longer maintain the use. This can take days, even weeks, during which the real world becomes a blur. They are hurting their body, damaging their heart and often not sleeping at all. When it's over, if it's not from a heart attack or accident caused by a paranoid fantasy, the person can be down, drowsy, sleepy and feeling terrible for days.

FORGET THE FAKES

If it feels strong, it is strong. Anyone who says that something producing drug-like effects is not a drug, or is safe, is fooling themselves or trying to use you. Smarten up. If something has to be marketed as bath salts to be legally sold it's not something you want in your body or brain.

FORGET FAKE COCAINE



no one really knows the long-term effects