



WHAT IS THCA?

Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA) is a chemical in the cannabis plant. It is NOT the same thing as THC, and this is important because it allows THCA to avoid many of the legal restrictions placed on THC. While THC produces a high, THCA by itself does not have the same effect. Marijuana plants contain THC, but hemp plants contain less than 0.3% THC, which is not enough to cause a high. However, hemp does contain THCA.

While THCA does not get you high, heating it up converts it into THC, which does produce a high. As a result, people can use this technique to get high in places where marijuana is illegal or difficult to access. THCA is a way to get around laws prohibiting THC.

THCA'S EFFECTS

The benefits and risks of THCA are not fully understood. It may provide pain or nausea relief, similar to other cannabis-derived chemical compounds like CBD.



How THCA is consumed significantly impacts its effects.

- If you consume it through gummies or lozenges, you may experience pain or nausea relief without psychoactive effects.
- If you smoke or vape THCA, it instantly converts to THC, producing a high.

Even though THCA does not get you high, it may still show up on a drug test. If you're in a profession that requires drug testing or considering a career in the military or government, using THCA could jeopardize your future.

If you smoke or vape THCA to get high, you will experience the same negative effects associated with THC use, along with the additional risks of smoking or vaping.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WebMD

www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/what-is-thca

Cenikor

www.cenikor.org/resources/thca-info/

Hanley Center

www.hanleycenter.org/what-is-thca/

in the know

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THCA

Over-the-Counter THC



THC'S EFFECTS

The negative effects of using THC are real and they can harm your life.

- **Brain Health:** Marijuana can cause permanent IQ loss of up to 8 points when use begins at a young age.
- **Mental Health:** Studies link marijuana use to depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and psychotic episodes. However, it's unclear whether marijuana use directly causes these conditions.
- **Physical Performance:** Research shows that marijuana impairs timing, movement, and coordination.
- **Daily Life:** Marijuana use can negatively impact performance and overall success. Research indicates that users are more likely to experience relationship problems, lower academic achievement, reduced career success, and decreased life satisfaction.



EFFECTS OF VAPING AND SMOKING THCA

Vaping and smoking THCA can lead to serious health problems. When heated, THCA converts to THC and the rapid absorption of THC increases the potential for addiction. Smoking or vaping THCA can also damage the lungs, leading to inflammation, reduced lung function, and bronchitis.

Not all the chemicals used in vaping THCA are understood, so the effect of these additives remains unknown. Both smoking and vaping also expose others to secondhand THC and other harmful chemicals.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

In addition to the risks that can come with THC use, it is important to remember that the effects of THCA are still relatively unknown. Just because something is not technically illegal does not mean it is safe to use.

If you buy and use THCA as a supplement, be aware that this market is not regulated. There is no way to know for sure if what you are buying actually contains THCA.

There is no way to know how it was produced, whether it has been contaminated, or if it contains harmful chemicals.



THCA AND THE LAW

THCA is legal and more accessible than THC, which is why it is growing in popularity. The fact that THCA can be converted to THC creates a legal loophole in states where marijuana is illegal. The best way to avoid any legal consequences or confusion regarding THCA is to avoid using it altogether.