

# SPICE

Synthetic Marijuana -- Real Danger

# ALERT



**Marketed as incense.** Spice/K2 consists of plant materials that have been coated with chemicals that mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. It has been legally sold as incense.

### **DEA Provides Notice of Intent to Make Synthetic Marijuana Illegal (DEA 11-24-10)**

On November 24, 2010, the DEA notified the public of its intent to temporarily control five synthetic cannabinoid chemicals found in so-called "fake pot" products such as K2 and Spice. DEA has received an increasing number of reports from poison centers, hospitals and law enforcement regarding these products.... "The American public looks to the DEA to protect its children and communities from those who would exploit them for their own gain," said DEA Acting Administrator Michele M. Leonhart. "Makers of these harmful products mislead their customers into thinking that 'fake pot' is a harmless alternative to illegal drugs, but that is not the case. Today's action will call further attention to the risks of ingesting unknown compounds and will hopefully take away any incentive to try these products."

**More potent than marijuana.** Depending on synthetic compound in specific commercial brand, can be anywhere from 4 times to over 100 times more potent than regular marijuana (THC). It can be smoked or mixed with food.

**Not for human consumption.** Spice has been sold in smoke shops and head shops in a variety of colors/flavors-and is usually sold in foil packaging or in small glass containers. Sold as incense, it has been marked "not for human consumption". The average cost of \$30.00 a gram is more expensive than marijuana.

**Most likely users:** 14-27 year olds and prisoners or probationers, as it is difficult to detect in standard drug tests.

**Significant health risks.** Spice is causing a significant health risk. Spice/K2 is often contaminated with unidentified toxic substances which contribute to various adverse health effects (also cause hallucinogenic effects similar to effects of PCP). Symptoms/side-effects may include:

- mimics marijuana "high" (often induced more quickly/more intense than "real" marijuana)
- hallucinations
- seizures/tremors
- coma/unconsciousness
- vomiting
- numbness/tingling
- increased respiration rate
- elevated blood pressure (reported up to 200/100-medically dangerous)
- elevated heart rate (reported up to rate of 150-medically dangerous)
- increased level of anxiety/agitation leading to panic attacks (possible suicide attempts)
- Spice/K2's long term effect is unknown because of the length of time the drugs are stored in the body

**Developed for research, never tested on humans.** Spice/K2 was developed by Dr. John W. Huffman, a Clemson University professor, as part of research for the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) on endogenous cannabinoid receptors, but never tested on humans nor approved by the FDA. Dr. Huffman said in an interview to WebMD, "It is like Russian roulette to use these drugs. We don't know a darn thing about them for real. It shouldn't be out there."

**Marketed under various names.** It is marketed under a variety of names including K2, Spice, Pep Spice, Spice Silver, Spice Gold, Spice Diamond, Smoke, Skunk, Yucatan Fire, Genie & Zohai Orange Dragon Smoke, Black Mamba, Blaze, Red X, and Dawn.

**Contact your state Senator or Representative at 800-352-8404 and ask them to make it illegal in AZ.**



**Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition**

**MATForce** [www.matforce.org](http://www.matforce.org)