

Fact Sheet

BATH SALTS



Ivory Wave, Red Dove, Cloud 9, Vanilla Sky, Bliss, Hurricane Charlie, White Lightening, Charge Plus, and Scarface:

- ◆ “Bath Salts” are used mostly by teens and junkies looking for a cheap trip.
- ◆ The substances contained in these products have absolutely nothing in common with actual bath salts.
- ◆ Bath salts are snorted, injected or smoked which causes hallucinations, paranoia, rapid heart rates and suicidal thoughts. Aggressive and psychotic behavior with increased physical strength has also been reported.
- ◆ Supportive care is the primary therapy based on management of other symptoms, with benzodiazepines used to treat symptoms such as agitation, seizures, and hypertension.
- ◆ The salts, which are allegedly as powerful as methamphetamines, have already been banned in the European Union, Australia, Canada, and Israel and the United States.
- ◆ In Pennsylvania, Senate Bill 1006 was signed into law on June 24, 2011, banning bath salts.
- ◆ The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration took emergency action in September 2011 to federally ban Mephedrone, Methylone and MDPV, the stimulants often found in bath salts.

- ◆ President Obama signed a federal law on Monday, July 9, 2012 banning the sale of synthetic bath salts, synthetic marijuana and nearly two dozen other man-made drugs.
- ◆ Increasingly, law enforcement agents and poison control centers say the advertised bath salts with complex chemical names are an emerging menace.
- ◆ The marketing scheme for “Ivory Wave” and other bath salt aliases was such that labeling them with, "not for human consumption," allowed circumventing of the laws regarding the substances contained in them.
- ◆ Cathinones are derived from the khat plant, which has been used recreationally for centuries. When the leaves and twigs of the plant are chewed they produce amphetamine-like euphoric effects. The stimulants mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylone (MDPV) are synthetic cathinones. They are sold not only as “bath salts”, but also as plant food, insecticides, chicken feed additives, and research chemicals.
- ◆ The United Nations Convention listed cathinones as a Schedule 1 substance in 1988, and the United States did so in 1993.
- ◆ The active ingredients, the stimulants (cathinones) mephedrone, methylone, and methylenedioxypropylone (MDPV), had been previously unregulated because they aren’t marketed, or likely intended, for human consumption. This chemical has reportedly been sold since 2008 as a research chemical. It was also sold in 2010 as a legal drug alternative and marketed in the United States as "bath salts" where you could find it in convenience stores, discount tobacco outlets, gas stations, pawnshops, tattoo parlors, truck stops and other locations. The marketing scheme is similar to that for Spice, K2 which sold as incense, and herbal smoking blends.
- ◆ These altered chemicals avoided laws on what they should or can be used for. Unfortunately, with something new like “bath salts” no laws exist to restrict its use, especially when designated with the "not for human consumption" designation.
- ◆ Bath Salts are usually sold as a white or brown powder, but are also found in capsules and tablets.
- ◆ Bath salts were easily available on the Internet, and the cost for this "drug" was about \$30 for 200 milligrams according to Deseret News out of Salt Lake City, UT. Prices range from \$25 to \$50 per 50-milligram packet according to the DEA.
- ◆ For comparison, a 1.5 pound (681 grams) container of legitimate plant food offered by a local retailer sells between \$5 and \$12. A 250 milligram (0.250 grams) package containing mephedrone and marketed as “plant food” sells for about \$25. The same is true for the bath salt products containing MDPV, which cost the consumer \$100 for a

3.5 gram package, compared to legitimate bath salts, which sell for approximately \$15 per pound (454 grams).

- ◆ U.S. poison centers received 12 times as many call involving bath salts in the first 6 month of 2011 than in all of 2012. The number of seizures by law enforcement increased from 14 in 2009 to 290 in 2010.
- ◆ Routine urine drug screening for amphetamines is not able to detect synthetic cathinones. Gas chromatography-mass spectrophotometry (GC-MS) and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) lab testing is available from commercial labs, and these tests are capable of detecting mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV).
- ◆ When substances are basically research chemicals, and are used by people, the people become guinea pigs in their own dangerous experiment.