

BATH SALTS

October 2011

What are they?

The drugs sold as "bath salts" have no legitimate use for bathing and are intended for substance abuse. These are synthetic substances that act in the brain like powerful stimulant drugs. "Bath salts" give users a euphoric feeling said to be "more intense than that brought on by cocaine." Often marketed as "not for human consumption" to avoid legal prosecution, "bath salts" and the chemicals used to create them are now illegal to sell or possess in the United States.

Appearance:

"Bath salts" appear as pure white to light brown substances and are made up of a water dissolvable, crumbly powder with a slight odor. They are marketed under a variety of names such as Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, and White Rush. The packages may be labeled "concentrated bath salts" or "soothing bath salts" and are usually sold in 200mg, 250mg, or 500mg packets. The list of ingredients on "bath salt" products often gives no indication of the presence of psychoactive substances.

Uses:

Although "bath salt" products contain no specific directions for use, they are usually snorted, but can also be smoked, injected or swallowed.

Toxicity & Side Effects:

The "bath salt" substances are known to produce side effects, some of which are quite severe. These effects include, but are not limited to short term side effects such as:

- Increased heart rate
- Agitation
- Diminished requirement for sleep
- Lack of appetite
- Increased alertness and awareness
- Anxiety
- Fits and delusions
- Nosebleeds

More serious side effects associated with these drugs reportedly include:

- Blood circulation problems, including increased blood pressure
- Seizures
- Muscle spasms
- Muscle damage
- Loss of bowel control
- Hallucinations
- Aggression
- Severe paranoia
- Panic attacks
- Sharp increase in body temperature
- Risk of renal failure

Street Names:

The following is a sample of designer "bath salt" product names associated with unregulated psychoactive substances that are potentially harmful:

- Ivory Wave
- Vanilla Sky
- Pure Ivory
- Whack
- Bolivian Bath
- Purple Wave
- Charge+
- Ocean Burst
- Sextacy
- Gloom
- Purple Rain
- Salt
- Fly
- Hurricane Charlie
- Crush
- White Rush
- Monkey Dust

Legality:

Maine: On September 28th, 2011, the State of Maine enacted a public law making possession and trafficking of bath salts illegal with consequences of fines and jail time.

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1192&item=3&snum=125>

National: The DEA enacted an emergency measure on October 21, 2011: Except as authorized by law, this action makes possessing and selling the chemicals used in bath salts (or the products that contain them) illegal in the U.S. for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) further study whether these chemicals should be permanently controlled.

<http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr102111.html>

For more information or to find substance abuse treatment services contact:**Maine Office of Substance Abuse
Information and Resource Center**

41 Anthony Ave. ; 11 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
1-800-499-0027 or (207)287-8900
Fax: (207) 287-8910
TTY: 1-800-606-0215
Email: osa.ircosa@maine.gov

Information compiled from:

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement "New Unregulated Psychoactive Substances Marketed as 'Bath Salts,'"
- Office of National Drug Control Policy's "Statement from White House Drug Policy Director on Synthetic Stimulants, a.k.a "Bath Salts,"
- Northern New England Poison Center "Bath Salts (Illegal, Fake)."



Office of Substance Abuse
An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

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