



What is spice?

Spice is a particular brand of a wide ranging variety of herbal mixtures known as synthetic marijuana. The drug was originally marketed as “legal” and “natural” way to achieve a “high” similar to marijuana. Despite this common misperception, the drug is neither legal nor natural. Other names include K2, fake weed, and skunk.

How is spice used?

Spice is commonly marketed as incense or potpourri to be inhaled, but it has also been ingested.

Is spice natural?

No. Chemical analyses show that synthetic marijuana mixtures do contain plant material, but the active compounds are man-made chemicals.

What does spice do?

The chemical compounds in spice powerfully bind to cell receptors and can create strong and unpredictable effects that can be much more potent than THC. Users have reported psychotic symptoms such as extreme anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations.

Is spice legal?

No. It is currently listed by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a Schedule I controlled substance, making it illegal to sell, buy, or possess.

Is spice safe?

Because of the wide variety of brands and additives, using spice exposes you to a variety of potential toxins and contaminants with unknown health effects. Poison Control centers have reported a dramatic increase in spice overdoses that include rapid heart rate, vomiting, seizures and elevated blood pressure. In a few cases, spice has been associated with heart attacks. Abusers may experience symptoms of withdrawal and addiction, such as nausea, sweating, feelings of unrest, racing heart beat, difficulty breathing, and high blood pressure.



Source: www.drugabuse.gov

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Office of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

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