Synthetic Marijuana Information for Retailers

What is synthetic marijuana?

Synthetic marijuana is an illegal drug designed to produce effects similar to those of marijuana. It can be smoked, mixed with marijuana or added to hot water for drinking.

Is synthetic marijuana dangerous?

Yes. In some cases, the chemicals used in synthetic marijuana have side effects that are much stronger than the effects from marijuana. These side effects include increased heart rate, hallucinations, paranoia, anxiety, irritability, nausea, vomiting, high blood pressure, confusion, seizures and loss of consciousness. Severe side effects include kidney failure, heart attack or death.

If someone shows symptoms after using synthetic marijuana, call a doctor or the NYC Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222. Poison control centers are open 24 hours a day, every day of the year for poisoning emergencies and for informational purposes.

In an emergency, call 911 or take the person to an emergency room.

What is the legal status of synthetic marijuana in New York State?

It is illegal to sell or distribute these products in New York City or New York State. Businesses that do not comply may face civil or criminal fines, penalties or forfeitures.

How are these products sold?

Synthetic marijuana is often sold as incense, herbal mixtures, plant food or potpourri. It may be in packaging labeled “not for human consumption”. There are many brand names of synthetic marijuana, including, but not limited to:

- 3X
- Aroma
- Black Mamba
- Bliss
- Bombay Blue
- Chill X
- Chronic Spice
- Crazy Clown
- Galaxy Gold
- Genie
- Green Giant
- K2
- K3
- K3 Legal
- Moon Rocks
- Mr. Nice Guy
- Skunk
- Sky High
- Smacked
- Smoke
- Solar Flare
- Space Truckin
- Spice
- Spice Gold
What should businesses do if they currently sell these products?

Businesses should immediately stop all sale and distribution and return all products to the distributors.

What should distributors do with returned products and products currently in stock?

Distributors must dispose of these products as required by law. For more information on destruction of these products in New York State, please contact the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management, at 518-402-8678.