

Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2) Frequently Asked Questions for Consumers

What are synthetic cannabinoids (K2)?

Synthetic cannabinoids are a class of compounds designed to mimic the action of 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana. But, K2 is not marijuana. Many different synthetic cannabinoids can be manufactured. The chemicals involved can cause unpredictable and dangerous effects, detailed below.

How is K2 packaged?

It is sold as incense, herbal mixtures, or potpourri with a variety of names including, but not limited to “Spice,” “Mr. Nice Guy,” and “Green Giant” It often carries a warning that the products are “not for human consumption”. An expanded list of product names can be found on the next page.



What are the dangerous effects of K2 use?

The most common adverse effects that have been reported include lethargy, confusion, drowsiness, respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, tachycardia (increased heart rate), paranoid behavior, agitation, irritability, headache, seizures, and syncope (loss of consciousness). Severe side effects may include acute renal failure and significant negative effects to the cardiovascular and central nervous systems. In rare instances, use of synthetic cannabinoids has been linked to death.

What is the legal status of K2 in New York State?

It is illegal in New York State to possess, sell, offer to sell, or manufacture synthetic cannabinoids. Stores in possession of synthetic cannabinoids can be fined \$250 per packet. Additionally, continuing or repeat violation may result in closure of the retail establishment and entities and persons who have been ordered by the DOHMH to stop selling synthetic cannabinoids risk additional civil and criminal penalties if found to have them.

Who has experienced negative health consequences?

In New York City, males account for 90% of K2-related emergency department visits. Patients have a median age of 37 and 99% of the patients are age 18 or older.

Why the concern?

There has been a rapid and significant increase in K2-related emergency department visits in New York City. These substances have the potential to be extremely harmful due to their severe adverse effects and a mistaken belief that they are a safe, legal alternative to marijuana.

How may I contact the Poison Control Center?

The Poison Control Center can be reached at (800) 222-1222 or by calling 311.

How can I report a store that is selling these products in New York City?

Call 311 to report retailers that are still selling these products.

Names under which these products are being sold include, but are not limited to:

AK-47	G-13	Scooby Snax
Alice in Wonderland	G-20	Scope
Amped	Galaxy	Scrubba
Aroma	Galaxy Gold	Sence
Atomic	Geeked Up	Skunk
Bath Salts	Genie	Sky High
Bernie	Green Giant	Smacked
Bizarro	Herbal Incense	Smiley Dog
Black Giant	Hypnotic	Smoke
Black Mamba	iBlown	Sofa King Amazing
Bliss Plant Feeder	Ice Dragon	Solar Flare
California Dreams	Jersey Shore	SPACE
Caution	Joker	Space Truckin
Cherry Blast	K2	Spice
Chill X	K3	Spice Gold
Chronic Spice	K3 Legal	Spice Silver
Dafuq	K4	Strong Incense
Darkness	Kick Plant Feeder	Sweet Leaf
Demon	Kisha Cole	Tiger Shark
Diablo	Kronic	Trippy
Diesel	Makes Scents	Tropical Blaze
Dream Burner	Moon Rocks	Wet Lucy
Earth Impact	Mr. Bad Guy	White Tiger
Extreme	Mr. Nice Guy	Wicked X
Extreme Aroma Therapy	Nirvana	Wow
Fake Weed	Nuke 20x	XXX Ultra
Fire	One Wish	You Only Live Once
Flame	Phantom	Yucatan
Flamingo	Red Giant	Zohai
Frog(e)	Rocket Fuel	