

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



Department of Health & Human Services

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Synthetic Marijuana (K2/Spice)

What is Synthetic Marijuana?

Synthetic marijuana is sold as incense or potpourri. The material is a mixture of herbs and spices, sprayed with a synthetic similar to THC (active ingredient in marijuana). Ingredients can vary widely as can the potency. Its use and possession are now illegal in Michigan.

What are street names for Synthetic Marijuana?

Spice Gold; Spice Silver; Spice Diamond; Fire & Ice; Yucatan Fire; Genie; Pep Spice; Blue Lotus; among others.

What are the health effects of Synthetic Marijuana?

The small amount of research available shows that the following can occur from using synthetic marijuana:

- Increased heart rate
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Tachycardia
- Confusion
- Agitation
- Altered mood
- Dry mouth
- Increased blood pressure
- Tremors
- Panic attacks
- Hallucinations
- Perception disorders
- Dizziness
- ECG changes
- conjunctiva

What are the withdrawal symptoms of Synthetic Marijuana?

- Diaphoresis
- Tremor
- Palpitations
- Insomnia
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Vomiting

What can parents do?

Supervise their child's activities; know who their friends are, and monitor their surroundings for the following:

- Drug paraphernalia or cigarette papers
- Ashtrays
- Material or substances that appear to be potpourri or incense
- Evidence of online purchases

What do parents need to know?

- The known chemicals applied to the potpourri or incense are now banned in most of Europe, but are only illegal in a handful of states in the U.S., including Michigan.
- No one knows the long term effect that using these chemicals will have on the human body.
- Drug tests for detecting synthetic marijuana are now becoming available.
- Smoking synthetic marijuana is dangerous, similar to using other illegal drugs.

OVER



Resources

Oakland County Health Division / Office of Substance Abuse Services

(OCHD/OSAS)

http://www.oakgov.com/health/program_service/sas_about.html

248-858-0001

- Eligibility for OSAS funded programs
- Substance abuse fact sheets
- Oakland County substance abuse programs
- Treatment weblinks
- Prevention weblinks
- In Touch substance abuse Newsletter
- Treatment/PACE information
- Prevention services

Prior Authorization and Central Evaluation Program (PACE Program)

PACE is the first step to substance abuse treatment services for low income residents in Oakland County.
248-858-5200 or 888-350-0900, ext. 85200

Alcohol & Drug Abuse

Alcoholics Anonymous.....	248-332-3521
Alanon.....	248-706-1020
Narcotics Anonymous.....	248-543-7200
Program & Prevention information.....	248-858-0001
Treatment Information PACE.....	248-858-5200
Toll Free.....	1-888-350-0900, ext. 85200

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