

BATH SALTS

July 2011

What are they?

Unregulated psychoactive substances marketed as “bath salts” are among the latest in a series of legal synthetic substances that, when used improperly, offer alternatives to illegal drugs. Suspected as being produced as legal substitutes for ecstasy, cocaine, and amphetamines, “bath salts” are powerful stimulant drugs that are suspected to have been designed to avoid legal prosecution, and are commonly available on the Internet and in specialty smoke shops.

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 packaged as “soothing bath salts” and marketed under a variety of names such as Ivory Wave, Vanilla Sky, and White Rush. The packages are labeled “concentrated bath salts” and are usually sold in 200mg, 250mg, or 500mg packets. “Bath salt” products often contain a note declaring “not for human consumption”. The list of ingredients on “bath salt” products often gives no indication of the presence of psychoactive substances. Although labeled as “soothing bath salts” to get around food and drug legislation, they sell for around \$30 per 500mg packet. These “bath salts” give users a euphoric feeling after they snort it, said to be “more intense than that brought on by cocaine.”

Uses:

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

Toxicity & Side Effects:

“Bath salt” products are known to produce certain side effects, some of which are quite severe. The following is the list of milder, short-term side effects associated with consumption of this drug as reported by available open sources:

- 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” products 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

Legality:

In July 2011, Maine enacted legislation to make it illegal to possess or sell any of the 21 different hallucinogenic drugs or stimulants that are sold and marketed as “bath salts”. Other states have passed similar bills and pending Federal legislation would ban at least two “bath salts” chemicals. The full text of the Maine law is linked below:

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_125th/chappdfs/PUBLIC447.pdf

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

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