

**DRUG  
ENFORCEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION**



**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT  
K2/Spice**

Spice or K2,  
also known as  
Synthetic Marijuana,  
is popular among  
youth.



DEA PHOTO

**What is Spice or K2?**

It is a mixture of plant material that is sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Spice often looks like potpourri.

**Street names:**

K2, Bliss, Black Mamba, Blaze, Bombay Blue, Legal Weed, Genie, Zohai, Red X Dawn, Scooby Snax.

**How is it abused?**

It is abused mainly by smoking in joints or pipes or prepared as an herbal drink.

**What is the effect of using Spice or K2?**

- Psychological effects include paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, hallucinations and giddiness.
- It can cause an increase in heart rate and blood pressure, convulsions, organ damage or death.
- Regular users of the drug may experience **withdrawal** and **addiction problems**.

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## Did you know?

- Spice or K2 is often sold in foil or plastic packaging containing dried, shredded plant material and marketed as incense or “fake weed” that can be smoked.
- The plant material is sprayed or soaked with unknown substances that **can be harmful**.
- DEA banned 18 synthetic compounds used in Spice or K2 because they have a high potential to be abused and have no medical benefit.
- A national survey showed **4.0%** of 8th graders; **7.4%** of 10th graders; and **7.9%** of 12th graders used synthetic marijuana in the past year. (Source: 2013 Monitoring the Future Study, University of Michigan.)

## True or False?

- At least 41 states have placed restrictions on the sale and use of Spice and Spice-like products because of their serious harmful effects. TRUE
- It is illegal to sell, buy, or possess Spice or K2 products. TRUE
- Poison Control Centers report that callers who used Spice gave symptoms of rapid heart rate, vomiting, agitation, confusion and hallucinations. TRUE

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For drug prevention information, visit DEA's websites:

[dea.gov](http://dea.gov)

[GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)

[JustThinkTwice.com](http://JustThinkTwice.com)



*for parents*



*for teens*