



DRUG FACT SHEET

K2 Herb

The Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, signed into law in July of 2012, permanently bans the deadly chemical compounds marketed and sold as “herbal incense” in all states.

Class of drug:	Synthetic Cannabis
Main active ingredients:	Cannabicyclohexanol, HU-210 and JWH-018, similar to THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) but more potent than THC
What it looks like:	In its pure state, these synthetic chemical compounds are solids or oil; but are usually sprayed on a mixture of dried herbs and spices
Street names:	K2, K2 Herb, Spice, K2 Incense, K2 Summit, K2 Standard, K2 Blond, Fake Weed, Black Mamba
How it is used:	Smoked, inhaled, ingested
Duration of high:	Smoked —effects begin immediately after the drug enters the brain and last from one to three hours
Withdrawal symptoms:	Irritability, headaches, nausea, anxiety, depression
Detected in the body:	K2 does not show up in a typical urinalysis test; there are some complicated and expensive blood tests for these compounds, but they are not useful in a daily clinical setting.
Effects:	Physical —sleepiness, relaxation, reduced or elevated blood pressure, heart palpitations Mental —hallucinations, delusions, paranoia Long-term —This drug is fairly new; the DEA is still studying its long-term effects. No long-term effects have been recorded in humans.



K2/Spice has been sold since 2006 as a pot-pourri or incense for about \$30 to \$40 per three gram bag. K2/Spice and similar drugs are illegal to sell and purchase in the U.S.

Illinois information

Illinois was one of several states to ban synthetic marijuana before the federal mandate. A law effective on January 1, 2012, made possession of K2 and any chemical like K2 illegal to sell, purchase or use in Illinois. A previous law banned only three chemicals that were used to make K2, but soon similar synthetic drugs were created that did not fall under the act. The new law includes a long list of chemical combinations that create synthetic marijuana in an effort to ban all substances.

(CarmiTimes.com, December 30, 2011 “New laws that ban bath salts and K2 synthetic marijuana set to take effect”)

Sources: Drug profile: Synthetic cannabinoids and 'Spice'. EMCDDA Drug Profiles. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. 2009, Sobolevsky, T, Prasolof I, Rodchenkov G, Detection of JWH-018 metabolites in smoking mixture post-administration urine. Forensic Science International, 2010, Uchiyama N, Kikura-Hanajiri R, Ogata J, Goda Y. Chemical analysis of synthetic cannabinoids as designer drugs in herbal products. Forensic Science International, 198 (2010) 31-38. (LiveScience, Fake Weed, Real Drug: K2 Causing Hallucinations in Teens, March 3, 2010)