



## Bath Salts: Emerging and Dangerous Products

### What are “Bath Salts”?

“Bath Salts” are a new designer drug, not the commercially manufactured bath salts that people purchase to use in the bath tub. “Bath Salts” may contain a number of synthetic chemicals including Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV) Mephedrone and Methylone. Recent research suggests that Bath Salts can produce a combined effect similar to both Methamphetamine and Cocaine. Street names include Ivory Wave, Aura, Zoom 2, Zeus 2, Cosmic Blast, White Rush, Vanilla Sky, Purple Rain, Cloud Nine, Ocean, Charge Plus, Scarface, Hurricane Charlie, Red Dove, White Dove, Sextasy and White Lightning among others titles. “Bath salts” are snorted, ingested mixed with water, injected, or inserted rectally or vaginally. There is craving for more once the binge is over.

### What are the health effects of “Bath Salts”?

Using “Bath Salts” can be very harmful. Current research shows that the following can occur from using “Bath Salts”: Homicidal and/or suicidal tendencies (sometimes violent behavior); Hallucinations, and Extreme paranoia; Psychiatric symptoms may persist; Delusions (many describe being chased by demons, gods, aliens or foreign soldiers); Increased heart rate; Chest pains; Dizziness; Panic attacks; Nose bleeds; Nausea.

### *The truth about bath salts:*

The substances contained in these products have absolutely nothing in common with *actual* bath salts. The active ingredients are a group of chemicals including the stimulants mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV), mephedrone, and pyrovalerone, amphetamine-like chemicals. Mephedrone is of particular concern because it presents a high risk for overdose. These chemicals act in the brain like stimulant drugs (sometimes touted as cocaine substitutes); thus they present a high abuse and addiction liability. These products have been reported to trigger intense cravings not unlike those experienced by methamphetamine users. They can also confer a high risk for other medical adverse effects. Some of these may be linked to the fact that, beyond their known psychoactive ingredients, the contents of "bath salts" are largely unknown, which makes the practice of abusing them, by any route, that much more dangerous.

“Bath salts” is a “designer drug” that has been recently become available and sold in convenience stores, discount tobacco outlets, gas stations, pawnshops, tattoo parlors, truck stops and other locations. This is a powerful drug that causes severe side effects. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has confirmed that much of the supply is coming in from China and is distributed to head shops, convenience stores and through the Internet. This drug is not useful as a bath product. States are reporting an alarming surge of emergency department visits across the state related to the recreational use “bath salts.” The reality is that "bath salts" are dangerous drugs, substances capable of causing dependency and addiction.