

**Cannabis**

**Short Term Effects:** short term memory loss, anxiety, paranoia, psychosis, panic, hallucinations, slowed reaction time, increased heart rate, increased appetite, lack of coordination, and increased risk of stroke.


**Long Term Effects:** decline in brain function, long term memory loss, impaired thinking, inability to learn and perform complex tasks, and addiction.

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is one of the most common drugs of abuse. Marijuana may be ingested by smoking, vaping, or eating. Marijuana is part of the "hemp plant, which contains THC that causes the "high." It is a leafy substance that may be green, brown, or gray in color. The mind altering chemical can be used to infuse gummies, baked goods, candies, etc.

Common Types:

- Ayahuasca, Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), D-lyseric acid diethylamide (LSD), Peyote, Psilocybin, Dextromethorphan (DXM), Ketamine, Phencyclidine (PCP), Salvia divinorum (Salvia)

Psilocybin



**Short Term Effects:** hallucinations, increased heart rate, nausea, intensified emotions, intensified sensations, changes in perception of time, dry mouth, loss of appetite, feeling of detachment from self, spiritual experiences, panic, excessive sweating, sleep deprivation, paranoia, and psychosis.

These types of drugs cause hallucinations and can make users hear, see, and feel things that seem real but do not actually exist.

## Hallucinations

# Drug Identification & Awareness

Recognizing and understanding  
the signs and  
appearance of some common  
drugs within Pennsylvania.




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**Bath salts**, also known as synthetic cathinones, are synthetic stimulants designed to provide a cheaper alternative to and to mimic the illegal drugs, such as methamphetamine and cocaine. Often, products sold as Molly (MDMA) contain synthetic cathinones as well.



**Bath Salts**

**Synthetic Marijuana**



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A novel psychoactive substance (NPS) is a type of synthetic drug that is chemically created to mimic an illegal drug, commonly referred to as designer drugs. The chemicals can be altered slightly, as needed, to avoid being classified as illegal and to avoid being detected by drug testing. The exact components in any novel psychoactive substance are unknown by the user and often vary significantly by the chemists and methods of creating them. A significant number of these drugs are manufactured in China and some of the chemicals have yet to be identified. The effects of these chemicals on the human body and mind are largely unknown. Novel psychoactive substances can be sold legally on the internet or in stores, which helps create the illusion that they are safe. They are often sold as herbal smoking blends or incense and are frequently labeled with things like "not for human consumption," "plant food," "bath salts," or "jewelry cleaner" to mask their intended purpose and avoid health and safety rules. They are often marketed as being natural, safe, and legal and they are often easy and cheap to obtain.

## Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

## OTC Drugs & Vaporizers

**Promethazine** is a drug that acts as a sedative and may be found, along with **codeine**, in cough syrups. The codeine is an opiate which creates a feeling of euphoria. These drugs may be used in a substance called

*Purple Drank*, also known as *Lean*. It has been made popular and glamorized by famous individuals. It is a mixture of soda, most commonly Sprite® or Mountain Dew®, Jolly Ranchers®, and codeine-based cough syrup mixed in a Styrofoam® cup. Users will typically drink until they have an “out of body” experience that may last from 3 to 6 hours. The effects of the drug cause euphoria, disassociation, motor skill impairment, depression of the central nervous system and may even cause death due to the heart and lungs ceasing to function.

**Dextromethorphan (DXM)** is a common ingredient found in cough and cold medications. If taken in high doses, it may give users the feeling of euphoria, disassociation, and hallucinations. The street name for this drug is *Triple C's*, named after the common Coricidin® cough and cold medication. Some users are taking anywhere from 15 to 60 pills at a time. Overdose may occur and extreme abuse may cause organ damage, serious health issues, coma, and even death.

**Loperamide** is typically used as an antidiarrheal agent. Opioid users though have reported using Loperamide to get high when they cannot obtain their opioid drug of choice or to self-treat opioid withdrawal. It has been referenced to as “the poor man’s methadone”. Excessive use may cause life-threatening irregular heartbeat.

**Vaporizers & Inhalers** are a common form of ingestion most commonly associated with tobacco products. Illegal drugs may also be used with vaporizers as long as the drug is in liquid form. Some inhalers are specifically marketed for marijuana use. Vaporizers and inhalers range in price from \$40 for a starter kit to hundreds of dollars for a more “sophisticated” device.

RPD/OS-7/25-PSF

MDMA is an additional synthetic drug which is common-ly known as "ecstasy" or "molly". Chemically, it is similar to hallucinogens and stimulants. It produces increased energy, distorted perception, sensory loss, emotional warmth, pleasure, and body temperature increase. MDMA is typically ingested via capsule or tablet, but may also be snorted or swallowed in liquid form. Molly, typically in a capsule, is alleged to be the purest form found in crystalline powder. This form usually contains synthetic cathinone instead of MDMA. Ecstasy and Molly may also contain other additives such as ketamine, cocaine, methamphetamine, cough medicine, etc.

Alpha-PVP, also known as Flakka, is considered a second generation bath salt which has caused users to be overly aggressive, unable to feel pain, cannibalistic, extremely strong, and has been attributed to overdoses and deaths. Generally, users swallow, snort, smoke, or inject synthetic cathinones.

**Alpha-PVP Capsule**



**N-BOMe Blotter**



N-BOMe is another synthetic drug, which is sold as an alternative to LSD. It is also known as "N-bomb" or "Smiles." N-BOMe is a powerful hallucinogen in extremely small doses and the effects of it can last for up to 12 hours or longer. N-bomb is sold in liquid or powdered form or on soaked blotter paper. It


Bath salts may come in capsules, tablets, in small jars, or in liquid form. They have caused users to experience

## Novel Psychoactive Substances, cont.

## Inhalants

Using inhalants means that a user is deliberately sniffing common items with the goal of getting high. It is also referred to as huffing, sniffing, dusting, or bagging. Ingestion methods consist of inhaling through the nose or mouth. Common forms of inhalants and the types of products they consist of:

**Liquids:** paint thinner, paint remover, degreasers, gasoline, glues, felt-tip markers, nail polish remover, etc.



**Aerosols:** spray paints, deodorant, hairspray, vegetable oil sprays, fabric spray, dusters, air fresheners, etc.

**Gases:** whipped cream cans, propane tanks, butane lighters, nitrous oxide, helium, ether, etc.

Different chemicals can provide a different reaction to each user. Sudden Sniffing Death may occur even for first time users.

## Depressants

Depressants are drugs that depress the nervous system and are sometimes referred to as “downers.” They are typically found in tablet, capsule, or liquid form and are categorized as antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates.

**Common types—Antipsychotics** consist of Zyprexa, Seroquel, and Haldol.

**Common types—Barbiturates** consist of Amytal, Nembutal, and Seconal, most commonly used as sedatives and sleeping pills.

**Short Term Effects:** slowed pulse, low blood pressure, confusion, fatigue, dizziness, slurred speech, fever, dilated pupils, lack of coordination, difficulty urinating, depression, visual disturbances, slow brain function.

**Long Term Effects:** depression, chronic fatigue, breathing difficulties, insomnia, anxiety, panic, delirium, agitation, hallucinations, convulsions, and death.



