

Bath Salts: Synthetic Stimulants

What are “bath salts”?

“Bath salts” are toxic synthetic-drug products that are being used as recreational designer drugs. Unlike traditional cosmetic bath salts which are sold for adding to bath water, toxic “bath salts” products have no legitimate use for bathing and are intended for substance abuse. They may contain stimulants including MPDV (methylenedioxypropylvalerone) and mephedrone (methylenedioxymethamphetamine). These drugs are not controlled by the Drug Enforcement Administration and are not approved for human consumption by the Food and Drug Administration.

Where are “bath salts” sold and are they sold under different names?

“Bath salts” are generally sold in head shops, gas stations, and other convenience stores. They are often called “bath salts” but also are sold under names such as Ivory Wave, Purple Wave, Red Dove, White Dove, Blue Silk, and Zoom. They have also been labeled as plant food.

What do “bath salts” look like?

“Bath salts” are sold in small packets. They are often a white, tan, or brown colored powdery substance.

How much does it cost to buy “bath salts”?

“Bath salts” range in price from \$25 - \$50 for a 50 milligram packet.

How are “bath salts” used?

Users have been known to ingest, smoke, snort, or inject the products to obtain a high. These drugs produce effects similar to those caused by cocaine and amphetamines. In addition to a high, some users experience chest pains, increased blood pressure and heart rate, agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, and delusions.

What health risks are associated with using “bath salts”?

These products have been associated with many adverse effects and often create severe paranoia that can result in users harming themselves or others. These effects have included:

- cardiovascular symptoms
- agitation
- suicidal actions
- hallucinations/delusions
- violent assaults

For more information about Bath Salts, contact the Onondaga County Health Department at 435-3280 or visit ongov.net/health.