

Synthetic Cannabinoids Retailer Fact Sheet

Question: What are synthetic cannabinoids?

Answer:

Synthetic cannabinoids are a large family of chemically unrelated structures that are synthesized and marketed to mimic the action of Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana. They are powerful drugs of abuse that may cause severe side effects. They may also be called “plant food” or “herbal incense.”

Question: What are the dangerous effects of synthetic cannabinoid abuse?

Answer:

The most common adverse effects that have been reported include tachycardia (increased heart rate), paranoid behavior, agitation, irritability, nausea and vomiting, confusion, drowsiness, headache, hypertension, electrolyte abnormalities, seizures and syncope (loss of consciousness). Severe side effects may include acute renal failure and significant negative effects to the cardiovascular and central nervous systems. Use of synthetic cannabinoids has also been linked to death.

Question: How are these substances marketed?

Answer:

Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products containing these chemicals, marketed as incense, herbal mixtures or potpourri, have become drugs of abuse. They are sold under a variety of names including, but not limited to:

K2
Spice
Chronic Spice
Spice Gold
Spice Silver
Skunk
Black Mamba
Zohai
Mr. Nice Guy
K3
K3 Legal

Genie
Spice Smoked Blend
Sence
Smoke
Chill X
Earth Impact
Galaxy Gold
Space Truckin
Solar Flare
Moon Rocks
Aroma
Scope
Sky High

Question: What is the legal status of these compounds in New York State?

Answer:

Effective March 28, 2012, these compounds are prohibited from sale and distribution pursuant to an Order for Summary Action signed by the Commissioner of Health.

Question: How should the retailer dispose of/destroy the synthetic cannabinoids?

Answer:

Retailers must cease all sales and distribution of these compounds. For information related to the disposal/destruction of these products, please contact the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management, at (518) 402-8678.