

## **Spice/K2** **(AKA Synthetic Marijuana, a** **Misnomer-NOT Marijuana)**



A spice/K2 Package



### **What is Spice/K2?**

-Spice is a drug sold in headshops, gas stations, and online, supposedly as an “aroma mixture” or potpourri not for human consumption.

-Inside spice packages are synthesized (artificially made) substances that produce a high relatable to that of marijuana, but with certain differences.

-“Spice” is actually a huge array of different drugs, the majority of which are untested on humans. Users often do not know which spice drug they are using.

### **How Does Spice Work as a Drug?**

-Users take out the contents of spice packages, and will either smoke the drug, inhale its fumes, or infuse it in drinks.

-Certain compounds in Spice act on your brain’s *natural* cannabinoid system to

create feelings of wellbeing, sedation, and altered perception.

### **Effects:**

**-The vast majority of spice products are untested on humans, so we really don’t know the extent of the effects or dangers**

-Typical short term (can vary): “high,” sedation, paranoia, decreased anxiety, decreased pain, sense of well being, hallucinations, impaired thinking.

**-Possible short term/”overdose:”** fast heart rate (tachycardia), irregular heart rate (arrhythmia), slow heart rate (bradycardia), loss of blood to the heart muscle (myocardial ischemia), heart attacks, in rare cases death.

-Long term: heavy chronic users may experience addiction and withdrawal. Withdrawal does not appear to be fatal. Other possibilities include increased risk for schizophrenia, impaired function of certain parts of the brain.

### **Is Spice More Dangerous than Marijuana/Dangerous in General?**

**YES!**

**-Spice/K2 is NOT marijuana, and has inherent risks that exceed marijuana’s risks. Some of these are shown above in “possible short term.”**

-Deaths have been reported. Danger is especially high for those who have heart conditions (e.g. arrhythmia, cardiovascular disease, and more)

-When spice products are sold as “aroma packages,” their drug-like ingredients are not monitored or even known by retailers. For this reason, there are often dangerous impurities or inconsistent contents in the packaging.

-The vast majority of spice products are not tested on humans, so no one knows the extent of danger of all of them.

### **For more information:**

Visit:

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/spice-synthetic-marijuana>

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