

Drug Paraphernalia

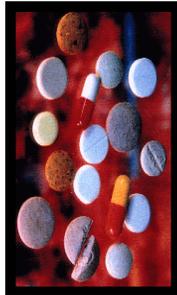
Go to any shopping mall and you might be surprised to learn of the countless stores selling items that not only promote drug use, but also provide the means for teens to engage in drug-related activities.

Posters, stickers, T-shirts, key chains, and air fresheners may be obvious items to spot in a line-up, but drug paraphernalia comes in many forms. Some paraphernalia is specifically designed to look like everyday items that you might find in a teen's room, backpack, purse or car.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, drug paraphernalia is often marketed specifically to youth — with colorful logos, celebrity pictures and designs like smiley faces on the products. The items are meant to look harmless and disguise the dangers of taking controlled substances. Other paraphernalia made to look like magic markers can conceal pipes, and small, hand-painted, blown glass items look more like pretty trinkets than pipes or stash containers.

Ecstasy

MDMA, called "Adam," "ecstasy," or "XTC" on the street, is a synthetic, psychoactive (mind-altering) drug with hallucinogenic and amphetamine-like properties. Its chemical structure is similar to two other synthetic drugs, MDA and methamphetamine, which are known to cause brain damage. According to its proponents, MDMA can make people trust each other and can break down barriers between therapists and patients, lovers, and family members.



**TO REPORT DRUG
ABUSE, SALES OR
MANUFACTURING,
CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY
OR
TASK FORCE**



DRUG AWARENESS

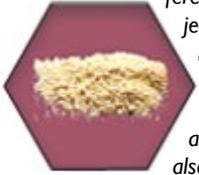


*Leading the
Ohio Law
Enforcement
Task Forces
to higher
levels of
professionalism
and innovation.*



METHAMPHETAMINE A HIGHLY TOXIC AND ADDICTIVE DRUG

Speed, meth, chalk, crystal, ice, glass. These are all names for the drug methamphetamine. Methamphetamine comes in many different forms and is snorted, swallowed, injected, or smoked. The smokable form is known as "ice" or "crystal," due to its appearance.



Methamphetamine is a powerful drug. It acts by changing how the brain works. It also speeds up many functions in the body.

Methamphetamine has a chemical structure that is similar to another drug called amphetamine.

You can identify methamphetamine users by...

- Signs of agitation, excited speech, have decreased appetites, and increased physical activity levels. Other common symptoms include: dilated pupils, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, and elevated body temperature.
- Occasional episodes of sudden and violent behavior, intense paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and bouts of insomnia.
- A tendency to compulsively clean and groom and repetitively sort and disassemble objects, such as cars and other mechanical devices.



Inhalants

Inhalants are common products found right in the home and are among the most popular and deadly substances kids abuse. Inhalant abuse can result in death from the very first use. About one in five kids report having used inhalants by the eighth grade. They sniff or "huff" ordinary household products like nail polish remover, cleaning fluid, gasoline, and spray paint. Inhalants are breathable chemical vapors that produce psychoactive (mind-altering) effects. Although people are exposed to volatile solvents and other inhalants in the home and in the workplace, many do not think of "inhalable" substances as drugs because most of them were never meant to be used in that way. Young people are likely to abuse inhalants, in part, because inhalants are readily available and inexpensive. Parents should see that these substances are monitored closely so that children do not abuse them.

Marijuana

Usually smoked as a cigarette or joint, or in a pipe or bong, marijuana has appeared in



"blunts" in recent years. These are cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and re-filled with marijuana, sometimes in combination with another drug, such as

crack. Some users also mix marijuana into foods or use it to brew tea.

The main active chemical in marijuana is THC

(delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). Short-term effects of marijuana use include problems with memory and learning; distorted perception; difficulty in thinking and problem-solving; loss of coordination; and increased heart rate, anxiety, and panic attacks.



Health Hazards

Effects of Marijuana on the Brain

Researchers have found that THC changes the way in which sensory information gets into and is acted on by the hippocampus. This is a component of the brain's limbic system that is crucial for learning, memory, and the integration of sensory experiences with emotions and motivations. Investigations have shown that THC suppresses neurons in the information-processing system of the hippocampus. In addition, researchers have discovered that learned behaviors, which depend on the hippocampus, also deteriorate.



Cocaine

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive drug of abuse. Individuals who have tried cocaine have described the experience as a powerful high that gave them a feeling of supremacy. However, once someone starts taking cocaine, one cannot predict or control the extent to which he or she will continue to use the drug. The major ways of taking cocaine are sniffing or snorting, injecting, and smoking (including free-base and crack cocaine).



Health risks exist regardless of whether

cocaine is inhaled (snorted), injected, or smoked. However, it appears that compulsive cocaine use may

develop even more rapidly if the substance is smoked rather than snorted. Smoking allows extremely high doses of cocaine to reach the brain very quickly and results in an intense and immediate high.

LSD

LSD, aka "acid," is odorless, colorless, and has a slightly bitter taste and is usually taken by mouth. Often LSD is added to absorbent paper, such as blotter paper, and divided into small, decorated squares, with each square representing one dose.

