

FACT SHEET

K2 Spice

What is K2 Spice and what is it made of?

K2 Spice is a dried herbal blend that is sprayed with an analgesic chemical JWH-028 or JWH-073, which creates a high similar to marijuana. Package labeling warns consumers that it should be used as incense and is not for human consumption.



Why is it popular?

Despite the warning, K2 Spice has grown in popularity as an alternative to marijuana because it is easily accessible and untraceable in drug screens within two hours after use.

Nationally, 352 cases of illness due to ingesting K2 Spice have been reported to the Poison Control Center, since February of 2010.¹

What is its effect?

Reported side effects include heart palpitations, respiratory issues, panic attacks, hallucinations, delusions, vomiting, increased agitation, and dilated pupils.

Where can I go for help?

Contact your local poison control center at **1-800-222-1222**. Visit the American Association of Poison Control Centers website at www.aapcc.org.

Is it legal?

On October 1, 2010, Public Act 171 of 2010 went into effect, banning the sale, purchase and possession of synthetic marijuana in Michigan. The ban includes herbal incense cannabinoids most commonly marketed and sold as K2 Spice, Demon, and Genie. These cannabinoids are most often sold in gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops and online websites.

Penalties for violation of the law carry a maximum fine of \$2,000.00 and one year's imprisonment. Details of House Bill 6038 are available at www.legislature.mi.gov. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has classified synthetic cannabinoids as drugs of concern. Additional information about K2 Spice is available at the DEA's website at www.dea.gov.

References

¹ Stecker (October 2010). The dangers of K2 Spice, now an illegal substance in Michigan. *SAFETY Network*, p6. Retrieved from www.michigan.gov/ohsp.