

# Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts)

## What are Synthetic Cathinones? Are 'Bath Salts' the same as Synthetic Cathinones?

Synthetic Cathinones (for example, MDPV, mephedrone, and methyone) are also known as "Bath salts" and have been sold over the counter under a variety of names (White Dove, Red Dove, White Cloud, Cloud Nine, Ivory Wave). They are derivatives of the psychostimulant cathinone, which comes from the khat plant that grows in the Middle East and Africa.

Other names for MDPV include "MTV", "Magic", "Maddie", "Black Rob", "Super Coke", "PV" and "Peeve".

Mephedrone has been sold as plant food, decorative sand, and even as a toy cleaner. Other names for mephedrone include "meow meow", "4-MMC", "m-cat," and "bubbles."

Methyone has been sold under the names "Explosion" and "Impact", often marketed as an air freshener in small vials which also contain vanilla oil. Other names for methyone include "bk-MDMA", "Ease", "M1", and "Neocor".

MDPV is chemically similar to MDMA (the drug commonly found in Ecstasy).

## Why do people use Synthetic Cathinones?

These drugs can be ordered online and are relatively cheap. They can have effects similar to other stimulants such as methamphetamine and cocaine. People use these drugs for their purported euphoric and stimulant effects.

## How do Synthetic Cathinones effect people?

Because many of the Synthetic Cathinones are similar in to MDMA, they can have similar stimulant and hallucinogenic effects. These drugs can cause a variety of adverse health effects including agitation, elevated heart rate and blood pressure, delusions, irregular heartbeats, seizures and hallucinations. Individuals who consume these drugs may also experience episodes of unusual, aggressive behaviour, including attempts at self-harm.

## Can Synthetic Cathinones be fatal?

Yes. There are reports of deaths associated with the use of these illegal drugs.

## If I take a small amount, can I avoid the bad effects?

No. There is no safe dose of these drugs, and there is no quality control in terms of the manufacture of these substances. Illicit drugs often contain other chemicals which can cause their own side effects with life-threatening effects. There is no "safe" street drug, and there is no safe dose of street drugs.

## What should I do if I have a bad reaction after using Synthetic Cathinones?

If you or anybody you know feels ill after using these drugs, please go to a health care facility for further evaluation, as symptoms may be life-threatening. There are medications that can be given to help treat some of these symptoms. In addition, the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) is a free, confidential 24/7 service for all Albertans. Staff are specially trained in the assessment and management of exposure to drugs and toxins like Synthetic Cathinones and are available by calling 1-800-332-1414.

**If anybody who has used these drugs exhibits unusually severe aggression or attempts self-harm, has a seizure, experiences chest pain, becomes unconscious, stops breathing, or experiences any other severe reactions, please call 911 immediately.**

If you are concerned about your own drug or alcohol use, the drug and/or alcohol use of a friend or loved one, or would simply more information on drug and alcohol use, contact the Addiction & Mental Health 24 Hour Helpline at 1-866-332-2322.