



Drug Alert Watch

Increasing Abuse of Bath Salts

U . S . D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

EWS Report 000007

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This SENTRY Watch is based on source materials that have not been validated and/or researched by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). It is intended to serve as an immediate alert to law enforcement and public health officials of potential substance abuse.

Law enforcement officials throughout the country are reporting that products promoted as bath salts have become prevalent as a drug of abuse. Bath salts have recently appeared in some of the same retail outlets that previously sold synthetic cannabinoid products such as K2 and Spice, and also are available via the Internet. Bath salts are abused as recreational drugs typically by injection, smoking, snorting, and, less often, by the use of an atomizer. Effects include agitation, an intense high, euphoria, extreme energy, hallucinations, insomnia, and making abusers easy to anger. Preliminary testing indicates that the active ingredients in many brands contain MDPV (3, 4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone) and/or mephedrone.



The abuse of bath salts and similar substances appears to be increasing, especially over the past 12 months. As synthetic cannabinoids are scheduled in various locations, many of their users begin to abuse bath salts. In addition to bath salts, these products are marketed as bath crystals, plant food, and herbal incense. Numerous brands are marketed in all 50 U.S. states and via Internet web sites. Common brand names include Blue Silk, Charge+, Ivory Snow, Ivory Wave, Ocean Burst, Pure Ivory, Purple Wave, Snow Leopard, Stardust (Star Dust), Vanilla Sky, White Dove, White Knight, and White Lightening. In central Pennsylvania, these substances have been offered for sale under the

brand name "Blizzard." The Blizzard brand is described as a white, odorless, fine-grained powder similar in appearance to baby powder or flour (see photo). Many other brands are a tan or brown powdery substance.

UPDATE AS OF MARCH 16, 2011

HOUSE BILL 121 "BATH SALTS" (MDPV). A Kentucky House committee has approved a bill that would ban the sale or possession of a new synthetic drug, often marketed as "bath salts."

House Bill 121, a measure to ban synthetic drugs that were in some cases being marketed for use as plant food, bath salts and other products, was signed into law by Governor Steve Beshear on Wednesday.

The substances, MDPV and mephedrone, were manufactured to create the same effect as Ecstasy and methamphetamine. They can cause delusions, paranoia and violent behavior. The ban signed into law this week makes it illegal in Kentucky to make, possess or sale the drugs.

Go to <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/11RS/HB121.htm> and click on HB121-AMENDMENTS for penalties and classifications'