



Drug Fact Sheet

Bath Salts or Designer Cathinones (Synthetic Stimulants)

Overview

Synthetic stimulants that are marketed as “bath salts” are often found in a number of retail products. These synthetic stimulants are chemicals. The chemicals are synthetic derivatives of cathinone, a central nervous system stimulant, which is an active chemical found naturally in the khat plant. Mephedrone and MDPV (3-4 methylenedioxypyrovalerone) are two of the designer cathinones most commonly found in these “bath salt” products. Many of these products are sold over the Internet, in convenience stores, and in “head shops.”

Street names

Billss, Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Drone, Energy-1, Ivory Wave, Lunar Wave, Meow Meow, Ocean Burst, Pure Ivory, Purple Wave, Red Dove, Snow Leopard, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, White Knight, White Lightening

Looks like

“Bath salt” stimulant products are sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages of 200 and 500 milligrams under various brand names. Mephedrone is a fine white, off-white, or slightly yellow-colored powder. It can also be found in tablet and capsule form. MDPV is a fine white or off-white powder.

Methods of abuse

“Bath salts” are usually ingested by sniffing/snorting. They can also be taken orally, smoked, or put into a solution and injected into veins.

Affect on mind

People who abuse these substances have reported agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, paranoia, delusions, suicidal thoughts, seizures, and panic attacks. Users have also reported effects including impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control, and decreased ability to think clearly.

Affect on body

Cathinone derivatives act as central nervous system stimulants causing rapid heart rate (which may lead to heart attacks and strokes), chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, and vomiting.

Drugs causing similar effects

Drugs that have similar effects include: amphetamines, cocaine, Khat, LSD, and MDMA.

Overdose effects

These substances are usually marketed with the warning “not intended for human consumption.” Any time that users put uncontrolled or unregulated substances into their bodies, the effects are unknown and can be dangerous.

Legal status in the United States

On Friday, October 21, 2011, DEA published a final order in the Federal Register exercising its emergency scheduling authority to control three synthetic stimulants that are used to make bath salts, including: Mephedrone, 3,4 methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and Methylone. Except as authorized by law, this action makes possessing and selling these chemicals, or the products that contain them, illegal in the United States. This emergency action was necessary to prevent an imminent threat to the public safety. The temporary scheduling action will remain in effect for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) further study whether these chemicals should be permanently controlled. As a result of this order, these synthetic stimulants are designated as Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I status is reserved for those substances with a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted use for treatment in the United States and a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision

Schuylkill police raid stores selling bath salts

BY JOHN E. USALIS (STAFF WRITER)

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An investigation continues following raids at two businesses in Schuylkill County by state police Wednesday afternoon concerning the alleged sale of bath salts, synthetic marijuana and narcotic paraphernalia.

The raids were coordinated with four others in Berks and Centre counties.

State police troopers from the Schuylkill Haven and Frackville barracks, working in conjunction with the Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office, conducted the raids after search warrants were served at Nirvana's Closet at the Schuylkill Mall and Dragon Chasers Emporium at the Fairlane Village Mall, according to Trooper David C. Beohm, police information officer for Troop L in Reading.

"There is nothing really new," Beohm said in a phone interview Thursday afternoon. "We're still continuing with the investigation. Five of the six places all yielded about the same amount of stuff."

In addition to the two Schuylkill County locations, a Nirvana's Closet in Reading was raided, as were three stores in State College, including a Dragon Chasers Emporium.

The Nirvana's Closet and Dragon Chasers Emporium stores are owned by John O'Keefe, according to Beohm.

The trooper said the investigations began about a month ago.

"There have been numerous incidents (of bath salt use) in Schuylkill County, which seems to be the hot spot for them," he said. "I don't know why that is. Maybe it's because it's easier to get."

When asked about potential charges, Beohm said the investigation will determine them.

"You're talking about a lot (of merchandise) being found. Berks County estimates their haul alone at the place they hit (Nirvana's Closet, Reading) was like a half-million dollars of product," Beohm said. "You're talking about possession with intent to deliver times. You're looking at a couple of years if convicted."

Beohm said the investigation will take some time.

"It's going to be awhile until somebody gets arrested," he said.

jusalis@republicanherald.com

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**Bath Salts Containing MDPV:
An Emergent Threat in Pennsylvania
3/29/2011**



Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA
7801 Essington Avenue, Suite A
Philadelphia, PA 19153
Jeremiah A. Daley, Director

Hallucinogenic “Bath Salts” have become a rising concern in the Philadelphia region and across the nation recently with weekly reports of overdose episodes and deaths from adverse effects of their use. Recreational use of Bath Salts among teens and young adults, seeking “legal highs”, euphoric effects and stimulant properties, appears to be rapidly increasing. High levels of aggression, paranoia and hallucinations following the ingestion of this dangerous and potentially deadly drug have also led to violent conduct.

Any given package of Bath Salts can have a varied chemical makeup. One common ingredient is methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) a psychoactive drug with stimulant properties, which acts as a norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitor. MDPV has no history of FDA approved medical use, but acts as a stimulant that reportedly has four times the potency of methylphenidate (Ritalin). The substance is not known to be a common ingredient in other street drugs. Bath Salts containing MDPV are not detectable through a toxicology screen, so it is difficult for medical professionals to identify cases of overdoses unless a patient admits to consuming the drug. Other Bath Salts contain mephedrone (4-MMC), an analog of methcathinone – a Schedule I controlled substance that can be prosecuted under the Federal Analog Act of the Controlled Substances Act – which acts as a synthetic stimulant. It frequently is sold as a plant fertilizer.

With innocuous sounding brand names such as “Ivory Wave” and “Tranquility,” these substances have become popular and available in “head shops” and on the Internet nationwide. Bath Salts are typically presented as white to light-brown powders that can be snorted, smoked or ingested. Its physiological and psychoactive effects are similar to using methamphetamines, methylphenidate or cocaine -- agitation, paranoia, spiking heart rates, seizures, hallucinations, and psychotic breaks. Primary psychological effects of the drug typically last 3-4 hours, with lingering physiological after-effects of up to 6-8 hours reported.

Reports of Emergence of Bath Salts in Pennsylvania and Nationally

- Available for years in Europe as a synthetic drug of abuse, Bath Salts have become very popular in the United States and an increasing threat locally as well. Though still legal in the US, Bath Salts containing MDPV were banned in the United Kingdom in April 2010.
- First observations of Bath Salt abuse in the southeastern Pennsylvania region were noted in 4th Quarter 2010.
- In January of 2011 the Drug Enforcement Administration declared Bath Salts a drug of concern following several deaths from the designer drug, reflecting growing national abuse.
- A poison control specialist at the Poison Control Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Allison Muller, revealed that the number of calls concerning Bath Salt has skyrocketed recently and there have already been at least 70 reported calls this year. Additionally, she reports Bath Salt use amongst children and teenagers is spiking due to its ready availability. The Center’s Facebook page has posts related to Bath Salts dating back to January 2011.
- A mental health specialist at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Kimberly Regan, reports a sharp increase in the number of patients presenting aggressive and/or suicidal behavior attributed to

Bath Salt use since December 2010. She describes the abuse of the drug as a mental health issue, due the high level of psychosis associated with the effects of bath salts.

- As a consequence of the overdose episodes, emergency admissions and violent conduct attributed to Bath Salt abuse, a number of states and municipal governments have outlawed sales of “Bath Salts.” On March 29, 2011 the Scranton School Board voted to ban the use, possession or distribution of Bath Salts on school grounds.

Pennsylvania related media reports

News stories concerning Bath Salts and their effects have dominated the regional headlines in recent weeks.

- An attack on a Priest on Ash Wednesday (March 9, 2011) by a 25 year old knife-wielding man who had been bingeing on the drug for several days was reported in Scranton, PA - *Philly.com*, (3/10/2011)
- A Northeast Pennsylvania couple, apparently hallucinating from Bath Salts, were charged with multiple offenses after nearly cutting their five-year old daughter with knives as they were apparently stabbing at “the 90 people living in the walls” of their apartment. – *Times-Leader.com* (3/21/2011)
- On March 28, 2011 two Lackawanna County women were charged in Wilkes-Barre, PA with reckless endangerment after swerving into opposing lanes and nearly crashing into a utility pole and several parked cars while two children, a 3 year old and a 1 year old, sat in the back seat. – *Times-Tribune.com* (3/29/2011)
- An Easton man frantically called police on Christmas Day 2010 to report his house surrounded by armed intruders. Police discovered him holding a sword and pointing at his neighbors chimneys naming them as his assailants. Following his arrest, police determined the subject was abusing Bath Salts prior to the episode. - *Associated Press* (3/27/2011)

Availability & Marketing

An open-source search through the Internet revealed multiple message board topics concerning the hazardous effects of Bath Salts, as well as vendors from whom to purchase the dangerous substance. Several Internet shops are selling Bath Salts through the mail. For \$24.95 a person can order 200mg of “Ivory Wave” and have it shipped to their home.

Bath Salts Marketed on the Internet as Other Products

Internet marketing of Bath Salts appears to be changing, with sellers using different techniques to mask the intended use of the product, while at the same time making it attractive to recreational users. Most Bath Salt packaging contains warnings to the effect of "Not For Human Consumption." Veiled advertisements for the "regenerative power" of the bath salts for the skin dominate their pages; however, the underlying message that retailers seek to convey is fairly apparent. With instructions for use including warnings such as "stay away from alcohol and prescription medication" it is relatively clear the retailers are aware of their clientele's intended use.



WWW.JEBSBOOT.COM

Bath Salt originally sold as "Syn-Nombre" now being marketed as "Jeb's Boot Dry" Boot Powder, but with same labeling.



WWW.JEBSBOOT.COM

Bath Salt originally sold as "Bolivian Bath" now being marketed as "Jeb's Boot Dry – Bolivian Boot" Boot Powder.



**Screen shot of web-page marketing “Ivory Wave” – Bath Salt containing MDPV
<http://www.alibaba.com/showroom/ivory-wave-bath-salt.html>**

Retail availability of Bath Salts in the Philadelphia area is reported to be largely in “head shops” – traditionally purveyors of marijuana-related paraphernalia – and some convenience stores. Although a number of anecdotal reports on Internet “blogs” and social networking sites indicate Bath Salts are available at these businesses, attempts to locate retail outlets in Philadelphia were unsuccessful.

Impact – Personal Account from MyFoxPhilly.com Facebook account

The following post from the MyFoxPhilly.com Facebook account captures the personal impact on family members of those who abuse Bath Salts:

Des Burlingame Holden Mar 28 2011

I am the wife of a user of bath salts. It started roughly 6 weeks ago. In these past 6 weeks my life has fallen apart. He lost his job and that was our only source of income. Now he is

incarcerated. I have no way to pay for rent/bills so I have no other choice to move our 2 year old son and myself in with family. I have never seen someone act the way he did while under the influence. Paranoid beyond belief, hallucinating, making irate comments. He didn't sleep or eat for days and often went missing. As you can imagine I did not sleep or eat for days myself and actually sighed a huge sigh of relief when he was arrested and put in jail. I know he's safe and able to detox. Now what? Everything is up in the air for me now. I am so sympathetic for anyone else going through what I'm going through. Trust me I feel like I'm going a little crazy myself, all because he wanted to take something for energy but became entirely addicted in a short period of time. It's awful to see that theres others that are dieing from this stuff. It needs to be banned in all states! If you or anyone you know is dealing with someone using bath salts and you need someone to talk to, please feel free to message me on facebook!

State & Local Control Efforts

A number of states and localities have outlawed the sale of “Bath Salts” containing MDPV. Emergency bans have been issued in Louisiana, North Dakota and Florida. Legislators in Hawaii, Kentucky, North Dakota and Mississippi have introduced bills to ban the drug, which can be sold legally in stores and online in most places. (*USAToday.com, 2/11/2011*) Neither Pennsylvania nor New Jersey have controlled Bath Salts, although the NJ legislature has introduced a bill on 3/20/2011 following an incident at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where a student killed his girlfriend while under the influence of Bath Salts on 3/18/2011. (*Clark.Patch.com – 3/29/2011*)

Since the substance is not controlled in Pennsylvania, people are free to order Bath Salts containing MDPV as they wish. However, on March 25, 2011, Mount Carmel Township, an area near Wilkes-Barre, PA, has banned the sale of synthetic drugs such as bath salts through local ordinance. Other nearby townships are also considering following suit. According to Shamokin Police Department, Shamokin, PA, their calls for service dealing with individuals who are high on bath salts are also increasing.

Legislators state-wide have begun to call for the ban of these dangerous substances. Senator Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia) is hoping that the legislature will act to ban bath salts by the summer. Additionally, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-Penna.) has called for a ban on the bath salts and is hoping the drugs will be made illegal if the bill supported by Sen. Casey is passed into law. (*Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/12/2011*)

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BATH SALTS IDENTIFICATION PAGE



IF YOU COME IN CONTACT OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES ANY OF THESE ITEMS CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT