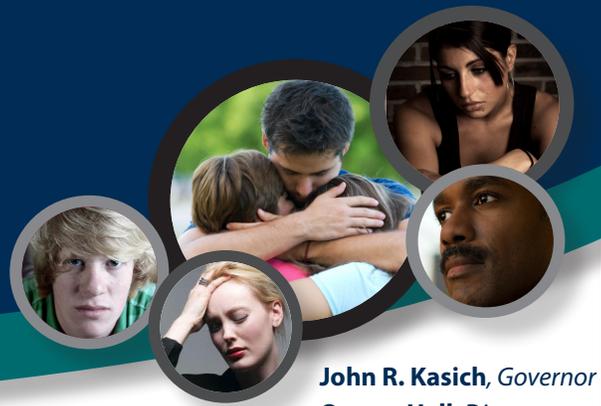


# Bath Salts

"Synthetic Cocaine"

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John R. Kasich, Governor  
Orman Hall, Director

## The Basics\*

- "Bath Salts", the newest fad to hit the shelves (virtual and real), is the latest addition to a growing list of items that people can obtain to get high. Because these products are relatively new to the drug abuse scene, our knowledge about what is in them, and short- and long-term effects is limited, yet what we do know tells us the public should understand there are potential dangers.

These products often contain various amphetamine-like chemicals, which act in the brain like stimulant drugs; thus they present a high abuse and addiction liability, and a high risk for overdose. Consistent with this notion, these products have been reported to trigger intense cravings not unlike those experienced by methamphetamine users, and clinical reports from other countries appear to corroborate their addictiveness. Unfortunately, "bath salts" have already been linked to an alarming number of ER visits and deaths across the country.



## Street Names

- The synthetic powder is sold legally online and in drug paraphernalia stores under a variety of names, such as "Ivory Wave," "Purple Wave," "Red Dove," "Blue Silk," "Zoom," "Bloom," "Cloud Nine," "Ocean Snow," "Lunar Wave," "Vanilla Sky," "White Lightning," "Scarface," and "Hurricane Charlie."

## How It's Used/Abused

- These drugs are typically administered by snorting or by injection, with the worst outcomes apparently associated with snorting or intravenous administration.

## Effects

- Doctors and clinicians at U.S. poison centers have indicated that ingesting or snorting "bath salts" containing synthetic stimulants can cause chest pains, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, and delusions. Calls related to "bath salts" to poison control centers so far this year have already exceeded all calls for 2010.

## Facts from the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network:

- In the past six months, every focus group conducted in Cleveland and Dayton, including professionals, rural and urban, males and females has mentioned bath salts. The perception is this is a drug predominantly used by younger people under 25, usually for people who are new or relatively new to drug use.
- Fewer than five respondents had any actual first hand knowledge of using them (all under 25). Those that did had either snorted or injected it.
- The first preliminary OSAM report to include bath salts will be released in August 2011.

## Public Response

- Ohio has passed legislation to ban the chemicals in these products, which incidentally are labeled as "not fit for human consumption." A handful of other states are following suit.
- Parents, teachers, and the public should be aware of the potential dangers associated with the use of these drugs and should exercise vigilance over young people with regard to any drug abuse concern.

\* Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Message from the Director on Bath Salts — Emerging and Dangerous Products," 2010.