



Bath Salts

A new synthetic drug known as "bath salts" has hit the market. The contents of the small packet of powder, with names like "Cloud Nine" and "White Lightning," was not designed for use in an actual bathtub. It is an odorless power which can be tan, brown or white in color and sells for \$25-\$50. "Bath salts" are powerful synthetic stimulants that can cause severe side effects, including paranoia, hallucinations and violent behavior", said Mark Ryan, director of the Louisiana Poison Center, who has been studying the trend. "The drug has been compared to cocaine and methamphetamine" according to Ryan, "because of its addictive characteristics". The drug is sold in head shops, tattoo parlors, gas stations and truck stops throughout the country and can also be purchased over the internet.

"Packages containing the powdery substance are typically labeled 'not for human consumption' and marketed as bath salts, or plant food or insect repellent. Users mostly snort the drug but it can be injected, smoked or even eaten", Ryan said

The drug is gaining the attention of many legislators and as a result several states have placed a emergency ban on the product. Sen. Charles Schumer D-N.Y., said last week that he will introduce legislation to ban bath salts nationwide.