

The Washington Poison Center has seen an increase in the use of “synthetic marijuana”. This product is known more as “K2” and “Spice”. Other names include Genie, Zohai, Spice Tropical, Synergy, Spice Egypt, Spice Arctic, Triple X, Yucatan Fire, Spice Silver, Spice Gold, Spice Diamond, Sence, Smoke and Bombay Blue.

K2 is a potpourri-like substance that is meant to be burned (similar to incense). It is currently legal and can be purchased in stores or on the internet.

K2 is mixed with a variety of chemicals that have been used in labs for experiments on the cannabinoid system. These chemicals stimulate the same receptors in the brain that are stimulated by smoking marijuana.

Some users report similar effects to marijuana, but many poison centers have noted that patients tend to develop symptoms that bring them to the ER, such as rapid heart rate, agitation, paranoid behavior, high blood pressure, dilated pupils, and fever.

It remains unclear if these side effects are due to another drug taken with K2, or if it is the effect of a K2 overdose.

Patients have been reported to have negative drug screens. However, a new lab-based urine test is now available for the detection of some of the chemicals that are made with the K2.

If you have questions about K2, or any drug, medication, or poison, please contact the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. Nurses, pharmacists, and poison specialists are available 24/7 and never question the reluctant caller.

Also to note: The **911 Good Samaritan Law** is now in effect to encourage those who witness drug overdoses to call 911 for help, providing immunity from drug possession charges for both the caller and the victim. To learn more visit [www.stopoverdoses.org](http://www.stopoverdoses.org).

For more about K2 – Visit:

<http://www.theolympian.com/2010/08/01/v-print/1322064/pot-substitutes-lack-controls.html>

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38471376/ns/health-more\\_health\\_news](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38471376/ns/health-more_health_news)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/07/10/eveningnews/main6666078.shtml>