



## Cannabis and synthetic cannabis

### What is cannabis?

Cannabis comes from a variety of hemp plants called Cannabis Sativa. Marijuana is the most common form of cannabis and is made from the dried leaves and flowers. It has many street names such as weed, grass, mull, dope and gunja. Hashish and hashish oil come from the resin of the flowering tops of the female plants.

Cannabis, like alcohol, is a depressant drug which means it slows down the nerve messages to and from the brain. The immediate physical effects of a small dose can include a feeling of wellbeing, loss of concentration, increased appetite, red eyes, poor balance and coordination. Larger doses can cause hallucinations making people see and hear things that are not there, and panic attacks.

Some of the long-term effects can include increased risk of bronchitis and lung cancer, lack of motivation, lowered sex drive and hormone production. Those who use cannabis, even in small amounts, may develop mental health conditions or have problems with their memory and mood swings. This risk increases the earlier you start and the more you use.



### What is synthetic cannabis?

Synthetic cannabis is made when plants are sprayed with unknown chemicals in unknown quantities. This makes synthetic cannabis dangerous and unpredictable.

### Is synthetic cannabis safe?

**No.** Products sold as 'synthetic cannabis' contain a plant like mixture that has been sprayed with unknown chemicals which are often classified as 'research chemicals'. This means they are experimental chemicals that are not for human consumption. Because of the unknown plant materials and chemicals, the risk of harm is high for the user.

### What is synthetic cannabis called on the street?

Synthetic cannabis keeps appearing on the market under different names. This name change is usually to try and stay ahead of the law. Some of the well-known products include Kronik, Voodoo, Kalma, Kaos and Mango Krush.

### Is synthetic cannabis legal in WA?

Synthetic cannabis is banned in Australia because so little is known about the actual ingredients of these drugs and the possible health consequences. Anyone caught with these drugs could be charged for possession, selling, supplying or intent to sell or supply.

**It is against the law to possess, use, supply, grow or import cannabis in Australia**