

FRANK

Mephedrone - The facts

Meow Meow

MCAT

Drone

Bubbles

Bounce

Plant food



What is mephedrone?

Mephedrone is a stimulant, with effects similar to amphetamines (speed) and ecstasy (MDMA). It comes as a white or off-white powder either loose in bags or sometimes in capsules. Before becoming an illegal drug, it was sold over the internet and often described as a plant food, research chemical or bath salts - "not for human consumption".

Key facts:

- Mephedrone is not plant food. It is chemical made in foreign labs and was marketed as plant food as a way of getting around the law.

- Users say it can be compulsive, with the desire to re-dose regularly.
- The exact risks are now emerging from reports of users and doctors treating them. Whilst there have not yet been substantial scientific clinical studies of users, it is clear there are many risks, and they can be serious.
- Mephedrone has already been linked to a number of deaths.
- It became illegal as a Class B drug on the 16th of April 2010 along with other cathinone derivatives, meaning that it is illegal to have, sell or give away.

Risks:

- Anxiety and paranoia.
- Over-stimulation of the heart.
- Over-stimulation of the nervous system that can cause fits.
- Low mood and come down after a binge.
- Sweating and the potential for dangerous increases in body temperature.
- Severe nosebleeds.
- Seizures.
- Death.

The risks increase if mephedrone is combined with alcohol or other drugs.

For more information, talk to FRANK on 0800 77 66 00, visit talktofrank.com or text your question to 82111