

Profile: Marijuana

What is marijuana?

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Its main psychoactive chemical is *delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol*, or THC. Due to the variety of effects it can produce, marijuana can be categorized as a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogen.



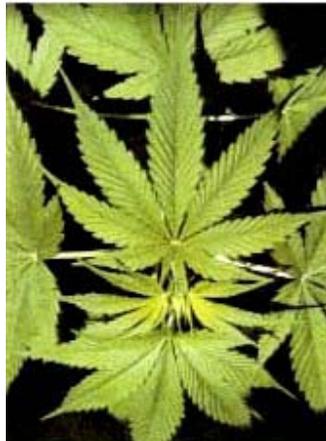
Dried Marijuana Buds and Seeds

How is marijuana used?

The most common way users ingest marijuana is by smoking it in joints (marijuana cigarettes), blunts (marijuana put into a hollowed-out cigar), pipes or bongs (water pipes). It is also eaten alone or cooked into food, most notoriously in hash or pot brownies. Finally, it can be brewed into tea.

What does marijuana look like?

Marijuana comes from the leaves and flowering tops of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, that appear greenish-gray when dried. It also comes in a more concentrated, resinous form, hashish or hash, and as a sticky black liquid known as hash oil.



Marijuana Leaves

What are some street terms for marijuana?

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| * Weed | * Ganja |
| * Pot | * Green |
| * Bud | * Mary Jane |
| * Herb | * Cheeba |
| * Grass | * Dope |
| * Reefer | * Smoke |

Potency-related slang

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------------------|-------|
| * Low-grade: | | * High-grade: | |
| Schwag | Dirtweed | Kindbud | KB |
| * Mid-grade: | | Hydro | Trees |
| Middies | Skunk | Dank | |

Lacing Marijuana

Marijuana is sometimes laced with other drugs, often without the knowledge of the user. Some of these drugs include powder and crack cocaine, PCP, and LSD.



Hashish

Laced with other drugs

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| * PCP: | * Powder or Crack |
| Dippers | Cocaine: |
| Boat | Chronic |
| Loveboat | Turbo |
| Killer Weed | Bazooka |
| Fry | Crack Back |
| Frios | Fry Daddy |
| Wet | Woolies |
| Water | |

How can I tell if someone has taken marijuana?

Users who smoke marijuana experience the effects within a few minutes. The effects peak in 10 to 30 minutes, and the high generally wears off in 2 to 3 hours. When eaten, users feel the effects in 30 to 60 minutes, and they can last up to 6 hours. Someone high on marijuana might experience:

Is Marijuana a Gateway Drug?

A recent study found that 99% of those who use illicit drugs other than marijuana had previously used marijuana. However, a majority of marijuana users studied (63%) did not go on to use other illicit drugs.

- * Mood elevation
- * Increased awareness of senses
- * Dry mouth (cotton mouth)
- * Increased appetite (munchies)
- * Sleepiness
- * Dizziness & clumsiness
- * Bloodshot eyes
- * Anxiety & paranoia
- * Poor short-term memory
- * Racing heartbeat



Dried Marijuana



Paraphernalia– Pipes, Joints, Bong

Online Resources

Drug Early Warning System (DEWS)
www.dewsonline.org

Center for Substance Abuse Research
www.cesar.umd.edu

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.nida.nih.gov

Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Diversion Control
www.dea.gov/diversion

Partnership for a Drug-Free America
www.drugfreeamerica.org

American Council for Drug
Education
www.acde.org

Adapted from www.justfacts.org, a website designed to provide sexual health, alcohol and other drug education. Provided by:



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