

# METHAMPHETAMINE

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## Street Names

Ice, crystal methamphetamine, tina, crystal meths, krank, tweak, snot.

## Description

generally takes the form of clear crystallised chunks. It will dissolve in water and breaks down to smaller particles.

## Routes of Use

Snorted or Injected, or in its crystal form Smoked in a pipe.

## History

Methamphetamine is a potent stimulant first synthesized in Japan in 1919. Once very big amongst some of the gay community but now spreading fast into mainstream culture, meth was originally used by bikers and truckers to stay awake on long journeys. Crystal is made of highly volatile, toxic substances that are melded in differing combinations, forming what some have described as a "mix of laundry detergent and lighter fluid."

## Effects People Seek

Methamphetamine induces a profound sense of euphoria. It is a "power drug" whose use is typically followed by prolonged depression and fatigue. It is very addictive. Smoking Methamphetamine results in the body temperature rising and rapid cardiac and respiratory rates developing as the blood pressure increases. The drug can lead to hallucinations, paranoia, and bizarre, aggressive and psychotic behaviour.

## Other Effects

The effects and dependence potential of meth are similar to that of amphetamine misuse, although as the stuff is a lot stronger, the dangers involved are greater with an increased chance of overdose. Overuse can bring on paranoia, short term memory loss, wild rages and mood swings as well as damage to your immune system. Overdosing can lead to severe convulsions followed by circulatory and respiratory collapse, coma and death. Some people have died after taking small doses. Long-term methamphetamine abuse results in many damaging effects, including addiction. In addition to being addicted to methamphetamine, chronic methamphetamine abusers exhibit symptoms that can include violent behaviour, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia. They also can display a number of psychotic features, including paranoia, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, and delusions (for example, the sensation of insects creeping on the skin).

## Dependence & Tolerance

Tolerance for methamphetamine can develop. In an effort to intensify the desired effects, users may take higher doses of the drug, take it more frequently, or change their method of drug intake. In some cases, abusers forego food and sleep while indulging in a form of bingeing known as a "run."

## The Law

Class B, illegal to have, give away or sell. If prepared for injection, methamphetamine becomes a Class A drug and can get you tougher sentencing if you're caught with it or selling it. Possession can get you up to five years in jail and an unlimited fine. Supplying someone else with it can get you up to 14 years and an unlimited fine.