

Inhalants



Inhalants are volatile substances that produce chemical vapors that can be inhaled to induce a psychoactive, or mind-altering, effect. Although other abused substances can be inhaled, the term "inhalants" is used to describe a variety of substances whose main common characteristic is that they are rarely, if ever, taken by any route other than inhalation. This definition encompasses a broad range of chemicals that may have different pharmacological effects and are found in hundreds of different products. As a result, precise categorization of inhalants is difficult.

Drug use problems can be complex and often vary from person to person. It is important to note that the information provided is to be used as a guide only and may not be suitable for your own situation.



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COMMON INHALANTS:

(THREE SUB-CATEGORIES: VOLATILE SOLVENTS, AEROSOLS, ANESTHETIC GASES)

- Dust-Off
- Gasoline
- Frying Pan Lubricants
- Paint (and Thinners)
- Reddi-Wip
- Glue
- Insecticides
- Nitrous Oxide

PHYSICAL EFFECTS:

Wide variety of effects, depending on the substance inhaled, however they generally appear to be intoxicated as if they were intoxicated on alcohol.

METHODS OF INGESTION:

- Sprayed into another object such as a can or balloon and then inhaled
- Soaked into a cloth, placed on the nose and mouth and then inhaled)

COMMON SIGNS OF USE:

- Bloodshot, watery eyes
- Lack of Muscle Control
- Odor of Inhaled Substance
- Non-Communicative
- Residue of substance around mouth and nose
- Confusion
- Flushed Face
- Disoriented
- Slow, thick slurred speech
- Possible Nausea
- Intense Headaches

EFFECTS:

- Confusion
- Possibly Violent
- Disorientation
- Non-Communicative
- Sensory Distortions

OVERDOSE EFFECTS:

- Coma
- Sudden Sniffing Death

Scan me to learn more!

Sources:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/inhalants/what-are-inhalants>

International Association of Chiefs of Police ARIDE program

