

Risks associated with prescription and OTC drug abuse vary depending upon the drugs that are abused. Some drugs, when used incorrectly, can be extremely dangerous. Over half of the hospital emergency room visits for drug-related injuries, overdoses and suicide attempts involve prescription or OTC drugs.

Children and the Medicine Cabinet

The contents of a medicine cabinet fascinate many children. For this reason, children must know that medicines can be dangerous, that only adults can give out medicine and that the medicine cabinet is off limits! Adolescents also explore and sometimes abuse the contents of the medicine cabinet. They too must be made aware of the dangers involved.

Is a Medicine Cabinet Drug Illegal?

Some are! It is illegal to use prescription drugs without a valid prescription or to distribute them.

Street Names for Medicine Cabinet Drugs:

Oxycontin	Hillbilly Heroin, Oxycet, Oxycotton
Ritalin	Kiddy Cocaine, Vitamin R
Benzodiazepines	Candy, Tranks
Xanax	Totem Poles
Barbiturates	Barbs, Blue Birds, Reds, Yellow Jackets
Amphetamines	Bennies, Black Beauties
Percocet	Percs
Vicodin	Happy Pills, Vikes

What you can do!

- Follow the doctor's instructions always!
- If possible, buy all drugs from the same pharmacist.
- Do not give your prescribed drugs to relatives or friends.
- Keep medications, including vitamins, out of the reach of children.
- Return prescription or OTC drugs you no longer use to your local pharmacy.

Inhalants & "Permissive Drugs"

They are right under your nose!



Inhalants are products found in most households and workshops that produce a "high" when sniffed. Teenagers and young adults account for the largest portion of the inhalant abuse in the United States.



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Let's Talk!



What are Inhalants?

Inhalants are a group of products found in most households and workshops that produce a "high" when they are deliberately inhaled or sniffed. The chemical vapors produce mind-altering effects when used. There are more than 1,000 household products that belong to several broad categories: 1) Volatile solvents - paint thinner, gasoline, correction fluid, glue; 2) Aerosols - paint, deodorant, hair spray; 3) Gases - ether, chloroform, nitrous oxide; 4) Nitrites - cyclohexyl, nitrite, amyl nitrite and butyl nitrite.

Who Uses Inhalants?

Individuals of all ages use inhalants, but teenagers and young adults account for the largest portion of the inhalant abuse in the United States. Disadvantaged adolescent males, with at least one alcoholic parent, who have problems in school and difficulty fitting in with peers are the most likely to become heavily involved with inhalants.

Inhalant abuse is a hidden problem in many communities, one that is frequently

missed in existing hospital and school-based surveys due to under-reporting.

Street Names for Inhalants:

- Boppers
- Bullet
- Gluey
- Hardware
- Head Cleaner
- Hippie Crack
- Huff
- Kick
- Locker Room
- Moon Ga
- Pearls
- Poor Man's Pot
- Poppers
- Rush
- Snappers
- Whippets

Short-Term Effects:

- Impaired judgment
- Decreased coordination
- Coughing
- Nasal irritation and nosebleeds
- Increased heart rate and heart failure ("Sudden Sniffing Death")
- Respiratory depression
- Suffocation
- Hangover

Long-Term Effects:

- Weight loss
- Mood swings
- Paranoia
- Serious brain damage
- Liver damage
- Kidney damage
- Violent behavior

Are Inhalants Illegal?

The everyday household products that are misused as inhalants are legally available for their intended and legitimate uses. However, a number of states have enacted legislation designed to prevent products that are commonly used as inhalants from being sold to minors.

What are "Permissive Drugs?"



"Permissive drugs" include prescription drugs which cannot be purchased without a doctor's written permission. The patient's age, weight, sex and possible allergies to certain medicines are all factors to be considered before prescribing a drug.

Permissive drugs also include over-the-counter (OTC) drugs that can be purchased without a doctor's prescription. They are used by people to treat their own ailments, ranging from headaches to common colds to minor injuries. Some OTC drugs contain ingredients, such as alcohol or codeine that can alter the user's mood and cause psychological dependence.

Misuse of prescription and OTC drugs--All medicines produce changes in a person's body chemistry, so there is always the possibility of some risk. For drugs to work successfully, they must be taken in specific amounts over certain periods of time. Taking prescription drugs without medical supervision is a form of drug abuse.