

forced through the filter usually into a receptacle. The receptacle is then heated to burn off the remaining butane creating a butane gas. Given the extremely volatile nature of butane, this process has resulted in violent explosions.

THC extraction labs are being reported nationwide, particularly in the western states and in states where local and state marijuana laws are more relaxed.

Photos of THC Extraction Labs



Puyallup, WA



Bellevue, WA



Puyallup, WA

Child's Tricycle



## Did you know?

Smoking marijuana interferes with learning and memory which increases the risk of poor grades and dropping out of school. Research shows regular marijuana use by teens reduces IQ levels and test scores.

Source: [www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/somethingstothinkabout](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/somethingstothinkabout).

The illicit use estimate for 2014 continues to be driven primarily by marijuana use with 22.2 million current marijuana users aged 12 or older (i.e., users in the past 30 days). The percentage of people aged 12 or older who were current marijuana users in 2014 was higher than the percentages from 2002 to 2013.

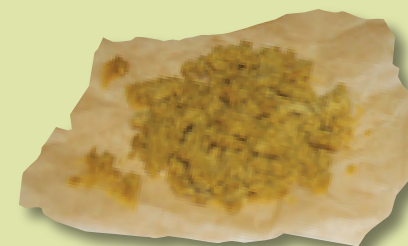
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).



# What You Should Know About Marijuana Concentrates

Also Known As:

# THC Extractions



For drug prevention information, visit DEA's websites:



[GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)  
For parents, caregivers, and educators

[JustThinkTwice.com](http://JustThinkTwice.com)  
For teens

[dea.gov](http://dea.gov)

## What Are Marijuana Concentrates?

A **marijuana concentrate** is a highly potent THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) concentrated mass that is most similar in appearance to either honey or butter, which is why it is referred to or known on the street as "honey oil" or "budder."

**Marijuana concentrates** contain extraordinarily high THC levels that could range from 40 to 80%. This form of marijuana can be up to four times stronger in THC content than high grade or top shelf marijuana, which normally measures around 20% THC levels.



## Street Names

Street or "slang" terms change often and vary regionally across the country. Marijuana concentrates are often referred to as 710 (the word "OIL" flipped and spelled backwards), wax, ear wax, honey oil, budder, butane hash oil, butane honey oil (BHO), shatter, dabs (dabbing), black glass, and errl.

## How Is It Abused?



One form of abuse occurs orally by infusing marijuana concentrates in various food or drink products; however, smoking remains the most popular form of ingestion by use of water or oil pipes.

A disturbing aspect of this emerging threat is the ingestion of concentrates via electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes) or vaporizers. Many abusers of marijuana concentrates prefer the e-cigarette/vaporizer because it's smokeless, odorless and easy to hide or conceal. The user takes a small amount of marijuana concentrate, referred to as a "dab," then heats the substance using the e-cigarette/vaporizer producing vapors that ensures an instant "high" effect upon the user. Using an e-cigarette/vaporizer to ingest marijuana concentrates is commonly referred to as "dabbing" or "vaping."

## What Are The Effects Of Using Marijuana Concentrates?

Being a highly concentrated form of marijuana, the effects upon the user may be

more psychologically and physically intense than plant marijuana use. To date, long term effects of marijuana concentrate use are not yet fully known; but, we do know the effects of plant marijuana use. These effects include paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, and hallucinations. Additionally, the use of plant marijuana increases one's heart rate and blood pressure. Plant marijuana users may also experience withdrawal and addiction problems.



*Photo courtesy of San Antonio Police Dept., San Antonio, Texas*

## THC Extraction Process Using Butane

Many methods are utilized to convert or "manufacture" marijuana into marijuana concentrates. One method is the butane extraction process. This process is particularly dangerous because it uses highly flammable butane to extract the THC from the cannabis plant. In this process, shredded or ground up plant material is stuffed into a glass, metal, or plastic pipe, with a filter on one end and then the butane is forced in the open end of the pipe. As the butane goes through the pipe, the THC within the plant material is extracted and