



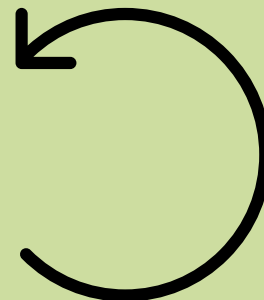
Crack Cocaine

Rocks, Free base, Wash

**Whites, Stones
cocaine hydrochloride**

History

Crack cocaine is cocaine hydrochloride that has been chemically altered to form crystals that can be smoked.

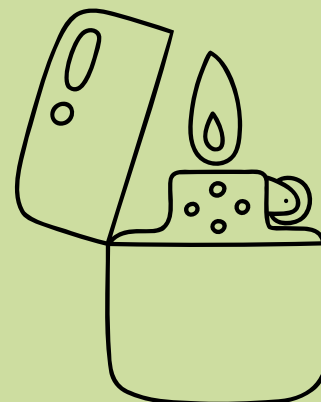


Appearance

Crack cocaine is found as small white/yellowish crystals (rocks) which are sold from £10 – £20.

Method of use

Crack is smoked on foil, in a pipe or glass tube. Sometimes it is injected.



Using Crack cocaine will give you a feelings of energy, confidence, talkativeness and warmth. The peak effect after a dose of Crack cocaine only lasts for about 12 minutes.

Adrenaline, serotonin and dopamine — natural chemicals that your body produces are all affected when you take Crack cocaine.

Effects

The rush and feelings of confidence and alertness are caused by adrenaline being produced when using crack cocaine. Too much of this can lead you to feel restless, anxious and even paranoid.

Adrenaline causes insomnia and loss of appetite. The increased levels of dopamine and serotonin create feelings of warmth and satisfaction. However, it takes a while for these chemicals to return to normal levels after use causing depression.

Health Risks

There is a risk of aluminium poisoning if you are smoking from cans or foil. The safest way is to use a water pipe (washed with bleach to kill bacteria) with a gauze. DO NOT share pipes and wash the rocks first to remove more of the adulterant.

Using Crack cocaine will increase your blood pressure and exert extra pressure and strain on your heart and blood vessels. If you feel a pain in your chest whilst using crack cocaine, STOP using and seek medical attention.

It also increases your body temperature, leading to overheating and the risk of seizures and fits. If you are overheating and sweating heavily drink some water and take time out to cool down.

Injecting Crack cocaine can cause severe problems such as collapsed veins, abscesses, and the threat of gangrene or even amputation. Avoiding injecting Crack cocaine will by-pass many of the serious health risks. If crack cocaine is injected, fix the rocks with vitamin C/Citric acid to dissolve the rock into liquid form.

Prolonged Crack cocaine use leads to vitamin and amino acid deficiency. This impairs your immune system and makes you susceptible to infections and disease.

Tips

If you are using sleeping tablets, allow time for them to work — take them before your last pipe.

Keep busy, avoid sitting around thinking about Crack cocaine

Using alcohol to come down can cause problems. Alcohol can create cravings to use more Crack cocaine because of the chemical reactions in the liver and you might go back to using if you are drunk.

Physical exercise can really help.

Mixing drugs increases your chance of overdosing. Try to go to bed after finishing a session and give your mind and body a chance to recover.

Remind yourself that it does get easier

Only use with people you feel comfortable with.

Make sure you have what you need to aid come down.

Manage your dose.

Dependency

Tolerance does occur and users can develop psychological dependence. When you are high on Crack cocaine, you will inevitably fall back down to a much lower point than from where you started. You may then find the need to take more Crack cocaine to get back to the same peak, resulting in more risk and more money.

Taking time between pipes will mean that less of the drug will be needed and gives your body a chance to recover and level the chemical imbalances.

The Law

Crack cocaine is a class A, Schedule 1 drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

