



# Poison HOTLINE

Partnership between Iowa Health System and  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

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## Did you know .....

The presence or absence of urine fluorescence under UV light can not be used to guide treatment decisions in suspected ethylene glycol (EG) poisonings. Not all EG containing products contain fluorescein, therefore the absence of urine fluorescence does not rule out an EG exposure. By 6 hours after ingesting fluorescein, 80% of urines will not fluoresce.

In contrast, a patient should not be treated for EG poisoning strictly on the basis of a positive fluorescent urine sample. Urine fluorescence is a normal finding in some patients, especially pediatric patients or those on antibiotics and vitamins. Additionally, some plastic or glass containers fluoresce, which can lead to a false-positive result.

## Bath Salts That Don't Relax You New Drugs of Abuse

Dangerous new drugs that are being sold under the guise of "bath salts" are sending drug abusers to emergency rooms around the country. Marketed under names like Ivory Wave, Ivory Coast, Cloud 9, Ocean, White Lightening, and White Dove, these "bath salts" actually contain the potent stimulants mephedrone and/or methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV). Mephedrone is one of a number of synthetic chemicals that are similar to the naturally occurring substance cathinone – the active ingredient in the traditional North African stimulant khat.

Sold in convenience stores, smoke shops, gas stations and online, these "bath salts" contain a disclaimer that they're not for human consumption and are sold only as a "novelty" and therefore can be purchased legally. Abusers are smoking, snorting, and even injecting these "bath salts" for their effects. There has been no formal research into the effects of these synthetic chemicals on humans, but abusers report they can be sniffed as "legal cocaine" or "legal speed" and describe them as many times more potent. These chemicals do not show up on a routine drug screen and are not federally controlled in the U.S.

Over 150 cases have been reported to the Louisiana Poison Center and over 75 have been hospitalized, leading to a ban of these chemicals in the state of Louisiana. Symptoms have included extreme paranoia and hostility, hallucinations, delusions, insomnia, vomiting, cold sweats, tachycardia, hypertension and intense cravings for more. Police have reported violent encounters with those high on the drug and ingestion of bath salts have been suspected in deaths in Kansas and Missouri.

Treatment of patients experiencing adverse effects from "bath salts" is similar to that for hallucinogenic amphetamines (e.g. Ecstasy) and includes the liberal use of benzodiazepines. Personnel at the Louisiana Poison Center relate that if high doses of benzodiazepines are not effective at controlling the symptoms, ziprasidone has been used with good results.

*Linda Kalin, RN, BS, CSPI  
Certified Specialist in Poison Information*

**POISON**  
**Help**  
**1-800-222-1222**

The logo for Poison Help. It features the word "POISON" in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "Help" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the letter "e" in "Help" is a red pill bottle with a white cap and a white skull and crossbones symbol on its side. Below "Help" is the phone number "1-800-222-1222" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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