



Dade DEN Data

Miami-Dade Drug Epidemiology Network

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“Budder” Beware: Dangers of Marijuana Wax

A marijuana product made from the left over leaves and stems of plants harvested in grow houses poses risks to diverse groups. Marijuana Wax also called “Budder,” or butane hash oil, or even “ear wax hash” is produced by soaking marijuana plant material in a solvent such as butane which extracts various components of the plant including any number of cannabinoids which are the active drugs in the marijuana. The gooey residue is then allowed to dry out as the butane vaporizes into the air resulting in a sticky paste ranging in color from brown to dark green or yellow. The wax can be smeared onto a marijuana joint or tobacco cigarette, placed in a water pipe, or most often melted in a vaporizer or electronic cigarette devise. The inhaled wax vapors have a much higher dose level of not only THC but other cannabis ingredients causing unwanted adverse effects. Consequences of use may range from severe hallucinations, anxiety, paranoia, and heart problems. Wax is not only more potent than pot itself; it is also more toxic.



Users are not the only ones at risk. Growers and makers of wax are in danger of powerful explosions and fires from a buildup of butane vapors which may easily ignite. One grow house in Commerce, California was literally blown off its foundation. People in such house explosions or motel rooms where wax was being made have suffered severe burns. Law enforcement personnel involved in marijuana house raids need to be aware of these dangers not unlike those associated with methamphetamine clandestine labs. Even neighbors unaware that the house next door may be concealing an illegal marijuana farm are at risk. Police in South Florida are reporting that they often find butane and paraphernalia related to wax production in grow houses they raid. In May 2014 there was an explosion at a grow house in Boca Raton, Florida. Many marijuana grow operations occur in rented homes, thus landlords need to be aware of the potential risks to their properties.

Products called marijuana wax may come from the process described above, but they also could be made from synthetic marijuana chemicals bought online from China. Thus, users cannot be sure of what they are smoking or “vaping.” Potency and toxicity can vary widely from one batch to another.

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Please cite The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community and the Miami-Dade Coalition Alliance

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