

Amphetamines-: Basics

Other names: *Speed, Whizz, Sulph, Billy, Base,*

- Amphetamines are stimulants.
- Illicit amphetamine may come in the form of a powder (amphetamine sulphate) or a paste (known as 'base').
- Amphetamine sulphate may be slightly yellow or pink in appearance, and may be as low as 5% in purity. It is usually bulked out with substances such as glucose, vitamin c, dried baby milk or paracetamol.
- Base amphetamine is a thick paste, and can be up to 50% pure amphetamine. It is usually grey in colour.
- Most commonly, amphetamine is either swallowed or sniffed.
- When swallowed, it may first be wrapped in a cigarette paper (known as 'bombing') to disguise its bitter taste. It may also be rubbed on the gums ('dabbing'), dissolved in a drink or injected.
- Base amphetamine may be smoked.



The effects:

- Makes the user feel alert
- Increases confidence
- The effects can come on almost immediately, depending on the route of administration, and may last up to 8 hours

Legal status

Please refer to <http://www.release.org.uk> where information is kept up-to-date

Risks

- **Cardiovascular:** chest pains, irregular heart-beat, palpitations.
- **Gastrointestinal:** dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.
- **Weight loss**
- **Fatigue** Confusion. Agitation. Irritability. Depression. Paranoia. Hallucinations. Possibility of drug-induced psychosis. **Psychological addiction:**
- **Behavioural:** aggression, violence.

• Need more advice
www.drugscope.co.uk
www.talktofrank.com

Amphetamines-: More Information

- **Side effects / risks**

Immune system: regular use impairs the immune system, compounded by poor diet and sleep deprivation.

Injecting: as with all drugs, there are potentially serious risks associated with injecting, and particularly with amphetamine, as so much of it is cut with impure substances. Risks associated with injecting include vein damage, abscesses, ulcers and deep vein thrombosis.

Blood-borne viruses: sharing any injecting equipment such as spoons, filters, tourniquets or syringes carries a significant risk of contracting a blood-borne virus such as Hepatitis or H.I.V.

Exhaustion: This is often compounded by the fact that many people cannot sleep while they are under the influence of amphetamines, and binges may last for several days. Long-term use can significantly disrupt sleep patterns.

Nasal: Prolonged use can damage the nasal membranes.

Psychological/emotional: Anxiety, Confusion, Agitation, Irritability, Depression, Paranoia, Hallucinations, Possibility of drug-induced psychosis.



Driving is dangerous on this substance

For further information please refer to

<http://www.brake.org.uk/index.php?p=913>

www.drugdrive.co.uk

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/drinkdriving/drugs/index.html>

Needle Exchange

For details of needle exchange services in the Norfolk area, go to www.nordat.org.uk, and click on 'Access Help' on the home page.

If you live outside the Norfolk area, you can find details of local needle exchanges at www.talktofrank.co.uk. Used needles and syringes should be disposed of in a sharps bin and returned to your local needle exchange service.

You can exchange needles at The Matthew Project

■ Amphetamines: Basics

■ Amphetamines: More

■ Harm Minimisation

Harm Minimisation

To be updated