

# Profile: PCP

## What is PCP?

Phencyclidine (PCP) is a synthetic dissociative drug originally developed as a general anesthetic. Dissociative drugs make the user feel detached from their environment and self.

## What does PCP look like?

PCP is a white crystalline powder that dissolves easily in water or alcohol. Liquid PCP is clear, yellow, or tan and is often sold in vanilla extract bottles. It is also mixed with dyes to produce colored powder, tablets or capsules.

## How is PCP used?

PCP is ingested orally, snorted, smoked or injected intravenously. When the powder form is snorted or sprinkled on marijuana, parsley, or mint, and smoked, the effects are felt quickly. Users may dip tobacco or marijuana cigarettes in liquid PCP and smoke it. PCP is also pressed into pills or put in capsules and swallowed.

## How can I tell if someone has taken PCP?

The effects of PCP vary with the dose ingested. Someone who has taken a low dose of 5mg or less may

appear drowsy, have difficulty speaking, forming sentences, or concentrating, or they may have constricted pupils, decreased sensitivity to pain or impaired motor skills.

Users experiencing the adverse effects of a low dose appear agitated, confused, anxious, or paranoid. They may be in a stupor or staring blankly. They may appear to be unable to speak. They may display hostile or bizarre behavior. These effects are more pronounced for someone who has taken a higher dose of 10mg or more of PCP. They may also experience erratic behavior, involuntary eye movement, severe psychological disorganization,

paranoia, agitation and restlessness, panic, terror, grandiose delusions, hallucinations, or fear of imminent death. These experiences may lead to stupor or even coma.



Liquid PCP

## Embalming Fluid?

Some marijuana users may believe they are smoking marijuana treated with formaldehyde, known as loveboat, but researchers speculate that this marijuana has actually been laced with PCP, sometimes referred to as “embalming fluid.”

Some who use loveboat experience effects very similar to the effects of PCP, including delusions, difficulty concentrating, and agitation. It is difficult to substantiate these suspicions, and researchers have called for further analysis.



PCP on dried plant leaves

## PCP in Disguise

In the time it has been on the illicit drug scene, PCP has been sold under the guise of other drugs, including THC, methamphetamine, mescaline, and LSD. Today we can add MDMA and formaldehyde to the list.

## Ecstasy?

Law enforcement agencies have reported that pills marketed as MDMA or ecstasy may actually contain PCP or a combination of PCP and other substances. Pills with names like “green kryptonite,” “orange pokemon,” and “purple tear drops” contain ketamine, pseudo/ephedrine, caffeine, or methamphetamine in addition to PCP, but contain little or no MDMA.

## Online Resources

Drug Early Warning System (DEWS)

[www.dewsonline.org](http://www.dewsonline.org)

Center for Substance Abuse Research

[www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

[www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)

United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration

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

Office of Drug Control Policy

[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)

Partnership for a Drug Free America

[www.drugfreeamerica.org](http://www.drugfreeamerica.org)

EcstasyData.org

[www.ecstasydata.org](http://www.ecstasydata.org)

## What are some street names for PCP?

- ◆ angel dust
- ◆ amoeba
- ◆ amp
- ◆ boat
- ◆ peace pills
- ◆ sherms
- ◆ STP
- ◆ embalming fluid
- ◆ belladonna
- ◆ animal trunk

## Marijuana/PCP combination

- ◆ wet
- ◆ dust blunt
- ◆ fry
- ◆ greens
- ◆ dippers
- ◆ frios
- ◆ love boat
- ◆ illy or illies
- ◆ killer weed
- ◆ leak

## Ecstasy/PCP combination

- ◆ elephant flipping
- ◆ pikachu

Adapted from [www.justfacts.org](http://www.justfacts.org), a website designed to provide sexual health, alcohol and other drug education. Provided by:



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