



MARIJUANA WAX

Over the past year or so, a unique form of **marijuana** has become popular—it's called **marijuana wax**. Also known as "ear wax," or simply "wax," this marijuana concentrate is more powerful. *Far* more powerful. Because it allegedly leads to a quicker, stronger high, wax is said to be the strongest form of marijuana on the market.

Before you go rushing out to try marijuana wax, you should know about its psychoactive properties and the danger associated with trying to make it at home.



Key Terms

Ear Wax

Wax

Vape Pen

Dabbing

Blasting

Shatter

It's known as "ear wax," or simply "wax." It obviously gets its name because of its appearance, and the process of ingesting it is called "dabbing" or taking a hit of a "dab." As High Times notes, it's also called BHO, which stands for "butane hash oil" or "butane honey oil." The process of producing BHO is called "blasting," while producers are known as "blasters."

How is Marijuana Wax Used?

After the wax has been extracted from the marijuana, a "dab" is placed into a bong and smoked, just like regular marijuana. Conversely, some people prefer to use vaporizers. A device like the HK pen is an efficient option because its core heats to 320 degrees, making it so that the wax simply evaporates as opposed to burning. This produces cleaner, more pure high with fewer toxins.



Why is Marijuana Wax Popular?

There's a pretty obvious reason for why some drugs, or even variations of drugs, are more popular than others: potency. Marijuana wax has become all the rage in the past year or so because it's more powerful than marijuana. Reported THC contents vary between sources. The 2009 World Drug Report reports THC content as "may exceed 60%". A 2013 American forensic science book gave a range of 10–30% delta-9 THC by weight and a 1972 American forensic journal reported a range of 20–65%. [5][6] Current testing labs regularly report oil potencies ranging from 30% to 90%, with levels of dispensary quality oil typically ranging from 60% to 85%, occasionally higher and occasionally lower. [7] Some extracts have supposedly been tested to over 99% THC but these are made using a process involving toluene washing. [8] Because of the nature of cannabis producing essential oils, or terpenes as well as psychoactive compounds, the percentage of THC can vary greatly from one strain to the next.

It's Highly Hallucinogenic

This is where the fun stops. When dealing with a stronger, more rapid high, you must consider the side effects. Marijuana has hallucinogenic properties, and wax, at its worst, can be extremely hallucinogenic.

A July Los Angeles Daily News feature on wax told the story of Josh, an 18-year-old who had to be hospitalized and eventually arrested following a bad

experience with it. Just a few minutes after a taking a hit from a vaporizer, Josh immediately felt the effects, explaining that the movie he and his friends were watching "started to look 3D" and that he "kept seeing lights."

He added that he "felt like he was going to die."

Someone had to call his grandmother, who drove him to the hospital where his hands were handcuffed to a hospital bed. At the time of the article, Josh was still dealing with the aftermath, which included \$7,000 in fines and a year of probation.

How Do Marijuana Wax and Marijuana Prices Compare?

As you probably figured, wax is more expensive. In Colorado, an ounce of wax is typically 5 times the price of an ounce of marijuana.

\$ = \$\$\$\$\$\$

The Recipe

Amateur chemists be warned: making marijuana wax is not a kitchen-friendly (or, for that matter, user-friendly) activity. The marijuana is placed into a long tube or pipe, which is then hit with a rush of highly flammable butane—yes, like lighter fluid. The butane is used to extract THC, marijuana's active ingredient, in a hardened, extremely potent form that resembles wax, hence the name. For anyone familiar with how hash is made, it's a similar, yet more dangerous, process. More on that later.



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