



Oregon Board of Pharmacy

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News Release

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Board of Pharmacy Bans Dangerous Synthetic Cannabis

Board outlaws sale and possession of “Spice” or “K2”

Portland — The Oregon Board of Pharmacy has voted to ban sale and possession of dangerous synthetic cannabis known on the market as “spice,” or “K2” the board’s executive director announced Thursday.

The action came after initial research by the board’s staff and several members of the legislature and others contacting the board to report that use of such substances is on the rise in Oregon. Manufacturers of synthetic cannabis market the products as incense, not intended for human consumption.

“Across the country, state legislatures and boards of pharmacy are passing laws and regulations to restrict the sale of these products in the interest of protecting the public,” said Gary A. Schnabel, executive director of the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. “The board believes that now is the time for Oregon to take similar action to protect the health and wellbeing of our citizens.”

By adding the synthetic cannabinoid chemicals to Schedule 1 of the Oregon list of controlled substances (pursuant to ORS 475.035), the board gives law enforcement the authority needed to prosecute the sale and possession of these substances under the Oregon Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Schnabel said that various retail businesses in Oregon have been selling these products over the counter. “Consumers must understand that these products are potentially very dangerous,” Schnabel warned, “They are not meant to be consumed, and people should not use them.”

Additional information will be posted on the Board’s website by Friday afternoon, visit the Board of Pharmacy web site at www.pharmacy.state.or.us.