



Oregon Board of Pharmacy

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News Release

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2011

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Board of Pharmacy Bans Dangerous Synthetic Cannabis and Mephedrone

Board outlaws sale and possession of "Spice", "K2", and "bath salts"

Portland — The Oregon Board of Pharmacy has voted to ban sale and possession of dangerous synthetic cannabis known on the market by such street names as "Spice," and "K2", and a group of cathinone-type chemicals that appear under such street names as "Bath Salts", "Pond Cleaner" or "Plant Food," the Board's Executive Director announced Thursday. This rule replaces a temporary rule adopted in October 2010.

The action came after initial research by the Board's staff. Additionally, several state legislators and representatives of the law enforcement community have contacted the board to report that use of such substances is on the rise in Oregon. Manufacturers of synthetic cannabis, mephedrone and similar cathinone-type chemicals (including MDPV) market the products as "not intended for human consumption."

"Across the country, state legislatures and boards of pharmacy continue to pass laws and regulations that 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.

By adding these chemicals to Schedule 1 of the Oregon list of controlled substances (pursuant to ORS 475.035), the board gives law enforcement authority 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 sold these products over the counter, and that consumers have purchased the products over the internet. "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."

These permanent rules take effect on Monday April 11, 2011. For additional information, visit the Board of Pharmacy web site at www.pharmacy.state.or.us.