



COCAINE

Cocaine powder and crack cocaine are stimulants with powerful, but short-lived, effects. Stimulants will speed up the way your body and mind work for a short amount of time. Cocaine powder is usually snorted and so is absorbed slowly into the blood stream. Crack cocaine is usually smoked, so it will reach your brain very quickly – this is why it tends to be a lot stronger. Crack cocaine and cocaine powder can also be prepared for injection, which will speed up to

absorption into the body.

Slang: Street names for drugs can vary around by region. For powder cocaine – coke, Charlie, C, white, Percy, snow, toot. For crack – rocks, wash, stones, pebbles, base, freebase.

Appearance and use

Cocaine powder, is a white powder that's usually lined up, and snorted through a straw (or rolled up bank note 'Crack' is a form of cocaine made into small lumps or rocks – called 'crack' because it crackles and pops when it's burnt. A rock will usually be about the size of a raisin and it is usually smoked in a pipe, glass pipe or on foil. It's usually smoked in a pipe, glass tube, plastic bottle or in foil. You can make both cocaine powder and crack cocaine into a solution which you can inject.

The effects

- The stimulant effects of cocaine make people feel good; confident, wide awake and excited. Your body temperature will increase, your heart will beat faster.
- The effects of crack smoking are virtually immediate, peaking for about two minutes and lasting for only about 10 minutes. For snorted coke there is a slower time to peak but the effects still don't last that long (around 20-30 minutes).
- Cocaine is very addictive. You can get psychologically dependent to it and it can be difficult to resist the cravings to use it.

The law

Cocaine and crack are Class A drugs. It is illegal to have, give away or sell cocaine e.g. you can get 7 years for possession and life for you (and those you supply) for supplying cocaine.

Cost

A gram of coke powder generally costs between £30 and £60. A crack rock costs between £12 and £20.

Purity

Cocaine powder is easily 'cut' or mixed with other substances e.g. sugar, starch etc.

The risks

- When you use cocaine, you can become confident and make mistakes you might regret in the morning.
- If you've used cocaine on a night out, you could wake up with flu-like symptoms.
- The more you use, the more you crave. Because the effects wear off so quickly, you can end up using a lot and this can become expensive.
- If you use crack cocaine or cocaine powder on a regular basis you can develop serious anxiety and paranoia and is known to cause panic attacks.
- If you choose to snort cocaine, you could be at risk of contracting Hepatitis infections from blood on shared straws or rolled bank notes. Injecting cocaine also carries the risk of contracting Hepatitis, as well as the risks of injecting any drugs e.g. HIV, vein damage and Deep Vein Thrombosis.