

DRUG COMBINATIONS

* Polydrug use has many possible outcomes. What could be fun for one person could be dangerous for another. We recommend you always proceed with caution.

DANGEROUS

Other vasodilators ie. *Viagra (sildenafil), Levitra (vardenafil) and Cialis (tadalafil)* = can cause cardiac arrest.

Meth/amphetamines= will increase the strain on the heart and put the body under excess stress.

CAUTION

Alcohol= may worsen hypotension, the potential to cause cardiovascular collapse.

It is not recommended to use Poppers if you have or are at risk of:

- High/low blood pressure
- An illness requiring prescribed vasodilators
- Heart issues
- Glaucoma
- Anaemia
- Pregnancy
- Chest infection
- Breathing difficulties or other respiratory issues

DRUG TESTS & ROADSIDE TESTS

Roadside Police Tests:

Roadside saliva tests do not look for alkyl nitrites. It is illegal to drive under the influence of any illicit drugs, including poppers and any driver may be subject to a roadside behavioural impairment test. Wait at least 24 hours before driving.

Workplace: It is so rapidly metabolised that it is not able to be tested for.

'Pill Testing'/Drug Checking:

Lab-quality testing has been trialled in Australia but is not available as a regular health service outside of the ACT yet. Some poppers have been rescheduled to Schedule 3 which will allow for a regulated supply to be purchased over the counter (OTC) at pharmacies.

MORE INFO:

This educational resource has been developed by people who use drugs for their peers and the wider community.

The role of DanceWize is to provide practical, evidence-based, unbiased information to assist you to make educated choices and to promote harm reduction, community care, and wellbeing.

In an unregulated market it's impossible to know the purity or dose of any substance. Taking drugs from an unregulated market carries its own risk, and you can educate yourself and practice harm reduction to reduce this risk.

Knowledge is power.

OTHER HELPFUL PEER BASED WEBSITES

AUSTRALIA

www.dancewize.org.au
www.dancewizensw.org.au
www.hi-ground.org
www.prism.org.au,
www.consciousnest.info
www.hrvic.org.au

INTERNATIONAL

www.erowid.org
www.tripsit.me
www.dancesafe.org
www.tripproject.ca
<https://www.kosmicare.org/>
www.pillreports.com

Research your jurisdiction's Department of Health website for drug 'alerts' or 'warnings'. Both HRVic & DanceWize post Victorian Drug Alerts on our social media pages.



Alkyl Nitrites

AMYL NITRITE, BUTYL NITRITE,
ISOAMYL NITRITE & ISOBUTYL NITRITE

STREET NAMES

Amyl, Poppers, Rush, TNT, Thrush, Jungle Juice,
Ram & Kix

CHEMICAL COMPOUND

Amyl nitrite (isoamyl nitrite, isopentyl nitrite),
Butyl nitrite, Isobutyl nitrite (2-methylpropyl nitrite)
Isopropyl nitrite (2-propyl nitrite), Pentyl nitrite

KNOW YOUR BODY & MIND - 'SET'
KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT - 'SETTING'
KNOW YOUR DRUG - 'PRACTISE HARM REDUCTION'

SAY 'KNOW TO DRUGS'.

DESCRIPTION

Alkyl nitrites are short-lasting drugs which cause a headrush and muscle relaxation. They appear as liquids that produce a vapour that can be inhaled. Alkyl nitrites are also known as 'poppers'. The first, amyl nitrite, was made in 1844 and was used to help relieve angina (chest pains). Widespread recreational use of amyl nitrite is thought to have started in the 1960s. After consequent restrictions on its production and use, various other related alkyl nitrites appeared. Poppers are usually found in the form of a liquid chemical sold in a small bottle. It is a depressant. They dilate the blood vessels and allow more blood to get to the heart. Amyl nitrite, in common with other alkyl nitrites, is a potent vasodilator, meaning that it dilates the blood vessels of the individual, allowing more blood to pass through and so lowering blood pressure. Alkyl nitrite functions as a source of nitric oxide, which signals relaxation of the involuntary muscles. In some countries, to evade antidrug laws, poppers are labelled and/or packaged as room deodorisers, leather polish or tape head cleaner and have been sold under many names including rush, climax, ram, thrust and heart-on and jungle juice aroma.

**Though often referred to as 'Amyl Nitrate', this is incorrect as Nitrate is a diesel fuel additive, and the two (nitrite / nitrate) are completely different and should not be confused.*

ADMINISTRATION (MOST COMMON ROUTES)

Alkyl Nitrites are for **inhalation only**. The most common method of use is to hold an open bottle near the nostril (**not** against the skin) and inhale the vapour for a maximum of 5 seconds.

Poppers are FATAL if consumed by mouth - Drinking WILL result in COMA or DEATH.

DURATION OF EFFECTS

Total duration: 1-5 minutes
Onset: 0-30 seconds
Peak: 30 seconds - 2 minutes
Coming Down: 1- 3 minutes
After effects/hangover: 1-5 minutes

EFFECTS

= 'Set' (your mind & body) + 'Setting' (environment) + Drug

PHYSICAL KEY: 🍷 LESS COMMON 🍷 RARE

- light headedness
- warm sensation
- relaxation of smooth muscles
- increased heart rate
- Increased libido
- skin sensitivity
- Increased body temperature
- impaired/decreased coordination & muscle control
- dizziness 🍷
- nausea 🍷
- headache 🍷
- blurred vision 🍷
- vomiting 🍷
- hypotension 🍷
- dyspnea (shortness of breath) 🍷
- hypoventilation 🍷
- syncope (fainting) 🍷

EMOTIONAL

- euphoria
- increased sensual awareness
- excitement

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- visual distortions
- memory loss 🍷

LONG TERM EFFECTS

Effects of long term use of these substances can result in a range of clinical conditions varying from mild allergic reactions to life threatening methemoglobinemia (*a blood disorder which can lead to inadequate oxygen supply to body tissue*).

Long term effects of Alkyl Nitrates include:

- Skin lesions
- Dermatological problems particularly around the nose, mouth, lips and face
- Increased intraocular (*eye*) pressure (*risky for people with underlying glaucoma*)

SAFER USING

- Try to use in comfortable environments with people you trust to look out for you if you overdo it.
- **Inhale** the fumes/vapour through your nose by holding the open bottle up to one nostril- **never swallow, plug or inject. Avoid contact with skin.**
- If it comes into contact with skin, **wash with water immediately**—Poppers are corrosive.
- Avoid smoking or open flames—**Poppers are corrosive & flammable.**
- Start with a very small amount to gauge strength and assess your sensitivity.
- Dose is determined by the depth and length of the inhalation.
- Consider carefully before re dosing as it is easy to take too much.

Overdose symptoms include nausea, vomiting, hypotension, hypoventilation, shortness of breath, and syncope (fainting).

SAFER HANDLING

- Poppers are light-sensitive and are best kept in a cool, dark, dry place, store away from a flame in a tinted bottle. *Label appropriately to avoid accidents.*
- Poppers can corrode the skin. Avoid direct contact.
- Not to be consumed orally, rectally, or in any other manner than inhaling the fumes/vapour.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL LAWS.

THE LAW

In Australia it is illegal to sell, supply or inhale products containing any of the five following nitrites: amyl, iso-amyl, alkyl, butyl and octyl – unless it is under specifically approved circumstances such as a prescription from a medical practitioner, pharmacist supply or distribution by a licence holder.

SAFE DISPOSAL

The contents of 'Poppers' bottles can be corrosive to skin and the left over vapours flammable so take care when disposing.

DO NOT pour down the sink or into drains.