

## CRACK

<b>History</b>	<p>Crack cocaine is manufactured from base cocaine and typically contains between 75-90% pure cocaine. Its effects are practically instantaneous making it both highly addictive and extremely lucrative. Crack cocaine first made an impact in the USA during the 1970s developing to epidemic proportions between the mid-eighties and the early nineties. Crack is easy to make and easier to buy than its powdered counterpart.</p> <p>The economic recession of the eighties and its consequences for large urban inner cities provided a perfect marketplace for crack. Crack became the 'poor man's drug' generating billions for sellers.</p>
<b>Street name</b>	Base, freebase, rocks, stones, white, bones.
<b>Type</b>	Stimulant
<b>Drug Effect</b>	<p>Crack takes effect almost immediately when smoked but the effects wear off rapidly, typically within 15 minutes. This rapid up and down encourages users to take the drug again straight away and can lead to binges where a user will take rock after rock, postponing the comedown, until they run out of money and drugs. Effects include: increased confidence, loss of fatigue, mental, physical and sexual potency; in high doses there can be toxic psychosis, paranoia, confusion, sensation of bugs under the skin, total body orgasm – electrification.</p>
<b>Dependency</b>	Yes, mainly psychological.
<b>Description</b>	Rocks – small, hard lumps of the drug which will be white or off-white and around the size of a raisin.
<b>Street use</b>	<p>Crack cocaine has a lower melting point (95°C) than cocaine HCl and so it can be smoked. This is usually done through a pipe though some people flake crack in to spliffs and smoke it this way. As crack is not water soluble it cannot be snorted or injected. In order to inject it some users will acidify crack cocaine, turning it back in to water-soluble salt. Cannot be snorted or injected. Takes effect almost immediately when smoked but the effects wear off quickly, within 15 minutes. This up and down effect often leads to binges where users will smoke rock after rock until they run out of drugs and money.</p> <p>Strictly speaking, crack is not a new drug nor is it a different drug from cocaine. It has been chemically treated to free the base from the salt which allows it to be smoked. Freebasing, which was a low-scale cottage industry in the US in the Seventies, really took off with the development of crack</p>

	<p>production and sale in the 90s.</p> <p>Drug services have been slow in creating effective services for people with cocaine addiction and especially crack-related issues.</p>
<b>Withdrawal</b>	No physical withdrawal symptoms, but anxiety and depression.
<b>Long term use</b>	Crack smokers often experience bronchial problems exhibited by coughing and black phlegm. Regular use can cause anxiety, depression and ultimately psychosis. Deaths do occur, predominantly through heart failure or haemorrhages.
<b>Overdose</b>	Death can occur, predominantly through heart attacks or haemorrhages.
<b>Legal Status</b>	Prescription only medicine. Class A, Schedule 2.