

HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS

History	Psilocybin mushrooms have likely been used since prehistoric times and may have been depicted in rock art. Many native peoples have used these mushrooms in religious rites. In modern Western society they are used recreationally for their psychedelic effects. The Fly Agaric and Liberty Cap (Psilocybin) mushrooms grow wild in Britain. Until recently other strains were cultivated in the UK commercially or imported from mainland Europe.
Street name	Magic mushrooms, shrooms, mushies, psilocybin, liberty cap.
Type	
Drug Effect	Hallucinogenic, similar to LSD, although typically milder and more manageable. Effects start to appear 30 – 60 minutes after ingestion and last for 5 to 7 hours. Can cause nausea.
Dependency	No.
Description	Varies according to type of mushroom and the state of the mushroom. Accurate identification is crucial as some UK mushrooms are highly toxic.
Street use	Mushrooms can be eaten raw but are mostly dried, made into drinks or eaten with food.
Withdrawal	Not physically addictive but there is a very low risk of psychological dependency.
Long term use	Can cause lasting psychological damage in sensitive individuals and people with a risk of mental health problems.
Overdose	The main risk with mushrooms is that of death through incorrect identification and poisoning.
Legal Status	Since the Drugs Act of 2005, possession of any mushrooms containing the chemicals psilocin or psilocybin is illegal. The legislation does not apply to other mushrooms such as Fly Agaric.