

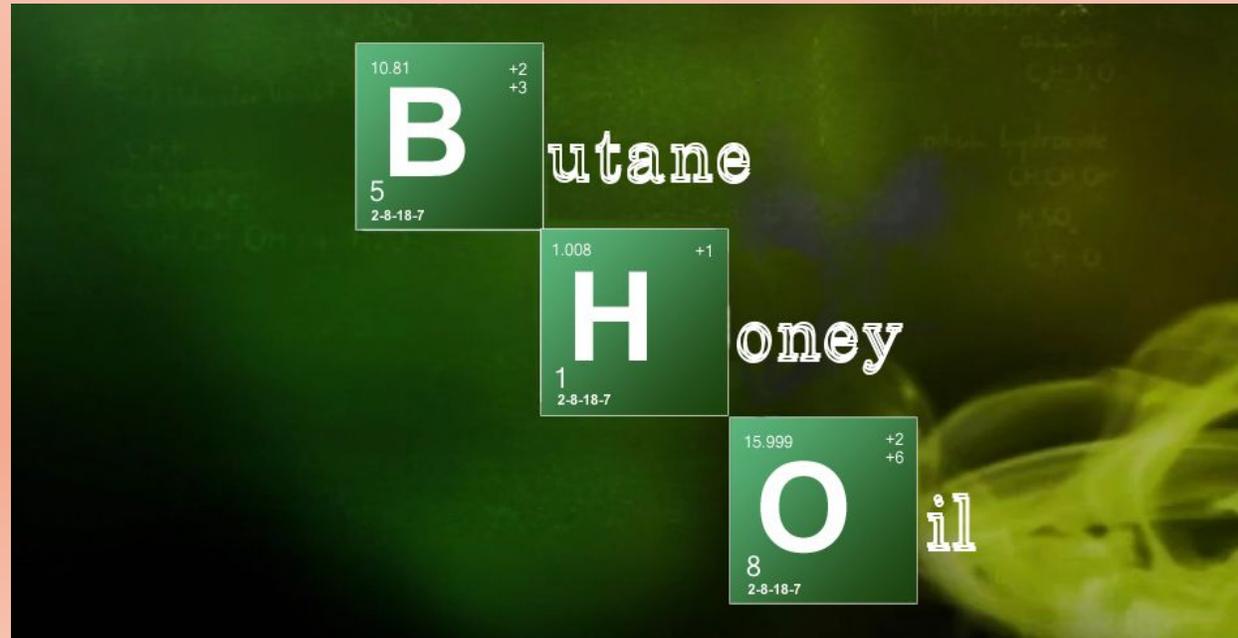
# The Dangers of Smoking Marijuana Wax

Karre Palacios, CADDC II

Chemical Dependency Counselor

Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc.

“Wax”



“Budder”

# What is Wax?

- A concentrated form of marijuana
- Wax is reported as being the purest cannabis product available, at anywhere between 82% and 99.7% pure THC, making it several times more potent than the buds of the cannabis plant that are usually consumed (5%-28%)
- One hit of wax, a minuscule amount (about the size of the head of a pin), is supposedly equal to 1-2 full marijuana joints
- Wax is the most powerful marijuana concentrate on the market
- It leads to a quicker, stronger high



# How is it Made?

- Long tubes are packed full of marijuana leaves or any left over shake or trim
- Compressed butane is shot through the tube saturating the plant for 30 sec
- The butane leeches the THC from the plant and it flows out in a greenish muck into a pan



- Place pan inside another pan of boiling hot water waiting 15-20 min for the butane to evaporate (hopefully)
- Scrape the oil off the pan



# Dangers of Making Wax

- According to Riverside County Fire Department, in the 90s, majority of the home fires reported in Southern California were from methamphetamine labs.
- Today, they are from wax labs inside regular homes in regular neighborhoods.







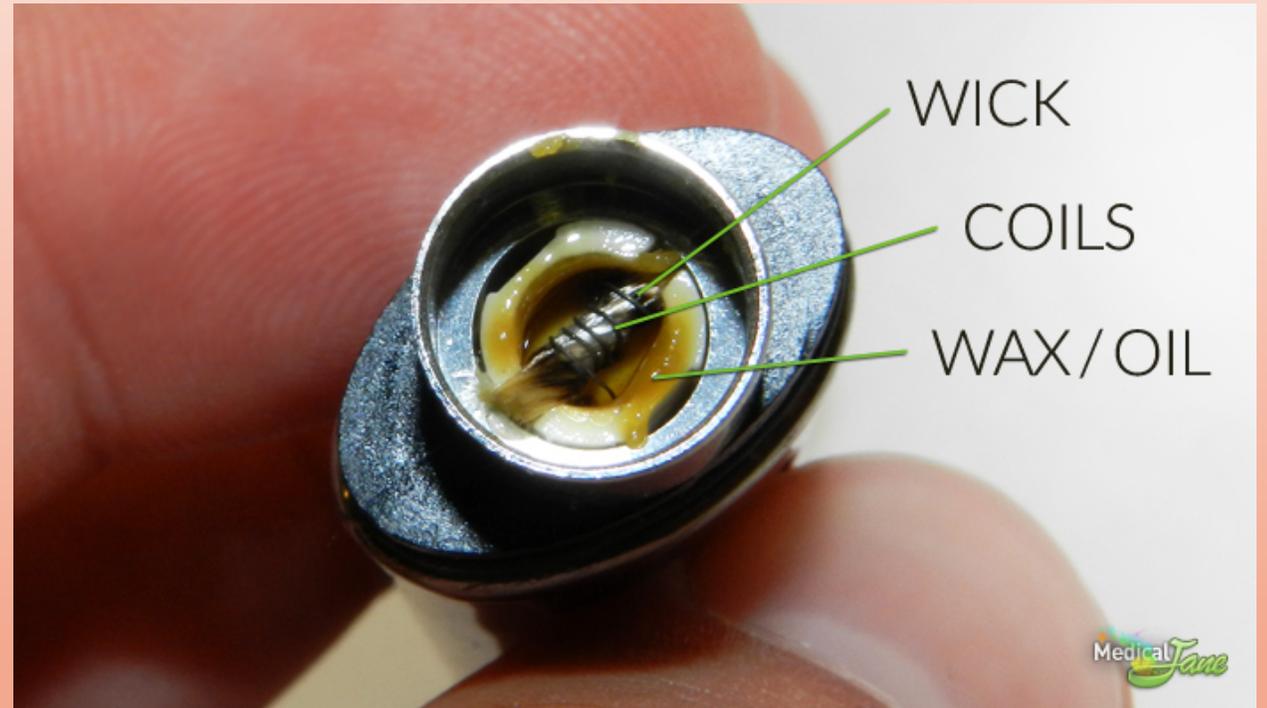


- Malibu
- City of Commerce
- Hemet
- Palm Springs
- Huntington Park
- Glendale
- Tustin
- Dana Point
- Moreno Valley
- San Diego
- Yucaipa

# How is it Smoked?



# Electronic Pens for Wax



- Using a pen produces little to no smell
- People are using these devices in public and teens in their bedrooms where no one knows
- The pen allows the product to become vapor which doesn't burn the product, it pulls the THC off of it

# What the Medical Marijuana Clinics Are Saying

- BHO wax is illegal to purchase and sell in California
- The wax that they are selling has been extracted using compressed Co2
- In California, there is one company who uses this method to sell to medical marijuana clinics which costs \$30,000 to own
- The use of wax is meant to get into the system fast and stimulate hunger
- Fearful that BHO wax will hurt the legalization movement

# What are the Teens Saying?

“It feels like you’ve been hit in the chest”

“I didn’t have to wait for it to kick in, I got high right away”

“It’s the highest I’ve ever been and I felt as if I was leaving my body”

“After smoking, I don’t remember”

“I haven’t been the same”

“I now see a psychiatrist and have been diagnosed schizo-affective”

# What We Know

- The chemicals in the sativa plant, most of which are psychoactive – they change or alter the brain. Use hinders short-term memory and effects perception and reaction time.
- Think about the still developing brain in middle and high school teens. Research shows that more than 40% of teens will try marijuana before they graduate.
- According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a recent study followed people from age 13-38 who were regular smokers had a significant drop in IQ, even if they quit.
- Marijuana itself is addictive and can lead to other drugs down the line
- The withdrawal from marijuana can range from irritability, sleeplessness, loss in appetite, and night sweats

# What is the Latest Research?

Symptoms include:

- Temporary psychotic breaks
- Hallucinations
- Tactile sensations like things crawling under the skin
- Anxiety

High doses of marijuana can induce psychosis and can worsen symptoms in those with schizophrenia.

Wax made with butane leaves small molecules that adhere to the lungs and creates a black spot much like miners lung.

# What We've Seen on Local Reservations

- Amateur “scientists” are making wax at home on tribal land
- Selling or giving it to adolescents to try because it's being made within the family circle
- The supply seems to be endless due to having the finances to meet the demand within Southern California gaming tribes
- 4 out of 5 adolescent patients have admitted to at least trying wax and most are active wax smokers

# What Can We Do?

- Educate ourselves so that we can educate others
- Prevention through education
- Open communication between parents and teens
- Reconnect with culture



# References

[www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com) [website] retrieved on 2014, April 2.

[www.leafly.com](http://www.leafly.com) [website] retrieved on 2014, April 28.

[www.myfoxla.com](http://www.myfoxla.com) [website] retrieved on 2014, March 10.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2007). Marijuana: Facts parents need to know. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services NIH Publication.

Scott, B. (2014). Next level caregivers In: Hemet, CA [interview].

# Q & A