

# D-2K

## GASES, GLUES & AEROSOLS FACTFILE

**KNOW IT** Lighter gas refills and fuel canisters.

Aerosols containing products such as hairspray, deodorants and air fresheners.

Tins or tubes of glue.

Some paints, thinners and correcting fluids.

**THE LAW** Sniffing gases, aerosols and glues is not illegal.

It is illegal for a shopkeeper to sell or give them to a person under 18 if they suspect the product is intended for abuse.

It is also illegal for shops to sell gas lighter fuel to anyone under 18.

The information given here is general. If specific legal advice is required, please consult a solicitor.

**EFFECTS** The effects are often similar to feeling drunk on alcohol; the user feels thick headed, dizzy, giggly and dreamy.

The effects are felt immediately and some users become intoxicated before they realise it.

The user may hallucinate (see or hear things which aren't real).

The effects disappear after 15 to 45 minutes. The effects of glues last longer than those of gases.

Afterwards users feel drowsy and may have a headache.

**RISKS** Gases and solvents can cause instant death, even on the first go. Sniffing gases, glues or aerosols kills at least one person every week.

Some users squirt gases and aerosols directly down the throat. This

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is a particularly dangerous way of taking the drug.

There is a risk of suffocation if the substance is inhaled from a plastic bag over the head.

Accidents can happen when the user is high because their senses are affected.

Using gases, glues and aerosols in dangerous or out of the way places can increase the risk of accidents.

Sniffing alone puts the user at risk if something goes wrong.

The vapours from gases and solvents can build up in the air if used in a confined space. Matches and lighters should not be used as this can cause an explosion or fire.

Using gases, glues or aerosols can lead to nausea, vomiting, black-outs and fatal heart problems.

Heavy, long-term use of glue may damage the lungs, brain, liver and kidneys.