

# D-2K

## MAGIC MUSHROOMS FACTFILE

**KNOW IT** Several types of 'magic' mushroom grow wild in the UK. The main type is the Liberty Cap (*Psilocybe semilanceata*).

On the street they are known as mushies or shrooms.

'Magic' mushrooms are eaten raw, dried, cooked in food, or stewed into a tea.

**THE LAW** Although it is not illegal to possess raw magic mushrooms, it is against the law to possess any preparation of them e.g. when they're dried out, cooked with, made into a tea, or if they are packaged into a 'product'.

Magic mushrooms, when prepared, or made into a product, are Class A drugs.

The maximum penalty for possession is 7 years' prison and/or a fine.

The maximum penalty for supply is life imprisonment and/or a fine.

A drugs record can cause serious problems at home and school and could affect job prospects.

If you have a drugs record, it can be difficult to get a visa to travel to some countries.

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

**EFFECTS** Magic mushrooms have a similar effect to LSD, but the trip is often milder and shorter.

A trip tends to last about four hours. Once a trip has started it can't be stopped.

While under the influence of the drug, users have dilated pupils and a faster heart beat.

**national  
drugs  
helpline**  
0800 77 66 00

Magic mushrooms can make the user hallucinate. The higher the dose, the more intense and uncontrollable the hallucinations become.

Magic mushrooms can make the user feel different at different times. The effects can be unpredictable. A 'bad' trip is more likely if the user is feeling anxious, nervous or uncomfortable.

Common effects include vomiting and abdominal cramps.

### RISKS

There are species of mushroom that look similar to 'magic' mushrooms, but which are POISONOUS. Eating the wrong kind of mushroom can cause serious illness and even fatal poisoning.

Users commonly report that taking magic mushrooms makes them feel sick.

It is dangerous to take magic mushrooms in unfamiliar surroundings.

It is difficult to tell how many mushrooms are needed to get the effect. Taking too many can cause stomach pains, sickness, diarrhoea, and severe anxiety and panic.

Magic mushrooms may trigger mental problems in some people. Anyone who has a history of mental illness, or is unhappy or depressed, should not take magic mushrooms.

Never get into a car driven by someone who has taken magic mushrooms.