

# CANNABIS EDIBLES

*What are they and what are the risks?*

## WHAT ARE THEY?:

**Cannabis** is a **Class B** drug, typically seen as a green herbal material that is smoked. The herbal material contains a substance called THC that causes a user to get high, this can be extracted from the herbal material and put into food. These could be gummies, chocolates, baked goods and more!

Once eaten, these do not take immediate effect as they need to be digested however, these will produce a longer high than smoking provides.

The potency of edibles are often unknown due to being made by novices. These products are also produced typically for sale to adults and therefore they will be made strong enough to get them high.

## WHAT DO THEY DO?:

A cannabis high depends on how much is taken (either quantity wise and/or strength of the THC in the food). Getting the 'Munchies', feeling relaxed and giggly are typically experienced however there is a risk of paranoia and in some cases psychosis if high potency THC is taken.

As ingesting takes longer to produce a high, inexperienced users may take more thinking that they are not working which in turn causes a much more intense high when it takes effect.

## RISKS TO CHILDREN:

Small children are at higher risk based on their size and weight. As edible products have very high amounts of THC, the symptoms are more severe on a small child.

Drowsiness and slowed breathing can be dangerous and has led to children being hospitalised.

The desirable packaging and use of sweets and chocolate make these products particularly attractive to young people and children.

Social media platforms such as Twitter, TIKTOK, Instagram and Snapchat are becoming an easy way for suppliers to advertise to young people.



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*What do they look like?*



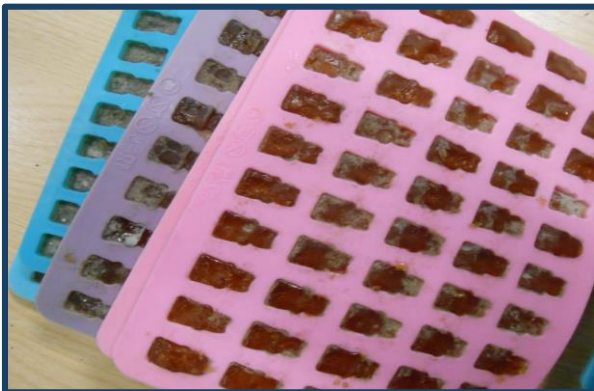
Cannabis Edibles are often packaged in attractive, professional looking packaging to encourage sales. These cannabis edible packages also often imitate real life sweet products such as the 'Nerds Rope'.



In addition, some producers will add well known sweets to embellish the THC infused product to make them look and taste more desirable.



The professional packaging can give the false impression that these have been imported from legal producers in the USA, however the packaging is widely available online to fill with any old product made in unsanitary kitchens with no controls on dosage.



All these images are taken of seizures in the West Midlands area and have tested positive for THC.

