

# Naphyrone & NRG-1

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**TACKLING  
DRUGS**  
**CHANGING  
LIVES**



HERTFORDSHIRE DRUG EDUCATION FORUM

# Naphyrone

**Slang names:** NRG-1, Energy1, Rave, O-2482

**The basics:** Naphyrone is a stimulant drug with effects similar to other recently controlled drugs like **Mephedrone**. Up until recently it has been sold in garden centres and over the internet as a 'legal high'. However, the law has now changed.

This drug is chemically related to pyrovalerone which used to be prescribed to treat lethargy and fatigue, but was discontinued because of concerns over its potential for misuse. Pyrovalerone is already a Class **C** illegal substance.

NRG-1 is a generic branded name. It may contain Naphyrone – or any number of other cathinones – legal stimulants (e.g. caffeine) or other active & inactive constituents. Therefore the branded product NRG-1 cannot be presumed to be Naphyrone.

In most cases, the chemicals in psychoactive drugs have never been tested to show if they are safe. You don't always know what's in drug, so you can never be 100% certain what you have bought and what the effects might be.



# What does it look like?

Usually a white crystalline powder or off-white/yellow powder.



## NRG-1

**WARNING**

Plant food  
Not for human consumption  
Research use only

# Effects & risks

As NRG-1 is a relatively new drug, there is limited information on what the long term effects of use might be.

## Highs

Euphoria ✱ Alertness ✱ Talkativeness ✱  
Feelings of empathy ✱ Reduced inhibitions

## Lows

Anxiety ✱ Easy to overdose ✱ Psychosis ✱  
Dependency ✱ 10x more potent than cocaine  
✱ Heart palpitations ✱ Cardiovascular  
collapse ✱ Heat shock ✱ Hyperthermia ✱  
Insomnia ✱ Seizures ✱ Death ✱



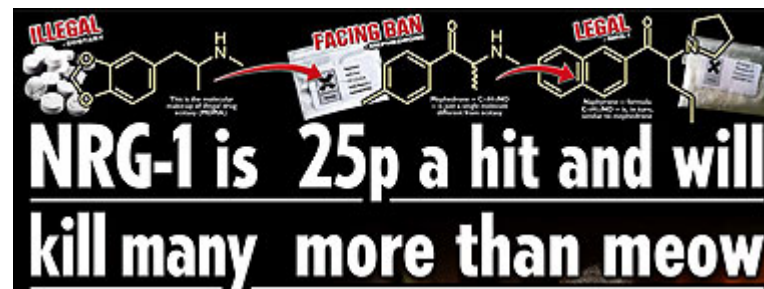
NRG-1 has similar effects to other stimulant drugs like cocaine, but may be longer lasting. Mixing it with other drugs, including alcohol, may not only change the effects but could increase the risks to your health.



# FAQ

## Is it dangerous?

Naphyrone does not have a long history of use, so there is little evidence of its long term effects or the risk of death from using it.



*Pic: Daily Mirror*

## Is it addictive?

Although there is little evidence on naphyrone, due to its similarity to other 'cathinone derivatives' it is very likely to be able to create a state of psychological dependence, with increased use associated with increased health harms.

## Is it expensive?

Naphyrone has been selling online for about £12 - £15 a gram – and up to now marketed under false claims that it is 'plant food' or 'pond cleaner' in order to circumvent various controls on medicines.

## Is it prevalent?

As with all the new drugs which have recently come onto the market, there are no figures for the numbers of users, although on the basis of internet search data, it seems that there has been a spike of interest in the drug since mephedrone was controlled.



# Naphyrone and the Law

- On July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010, Naphyrone was classified as a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- Naphyrone is now a Class B **illegal** substance, making it the same category as Amphetamine, Cannabis and Mephedrone.

Maximum penalties are:

- **5yrs and/or fine** (possession)
- **14yrs and/or fine** (selling / giving away / trafficking)

- **In Herts any young person caught in possession of unidentified white powder is likely to be arrested and taken to a police station.** They would be finger-printed, DNA swabbed and, if under 18yrs, would have their parents/carers contacted.

- A criminal record for drug offences can be a life-changing experience as it can affect the prospects of getting a job and the ability to travel to foreign countries.



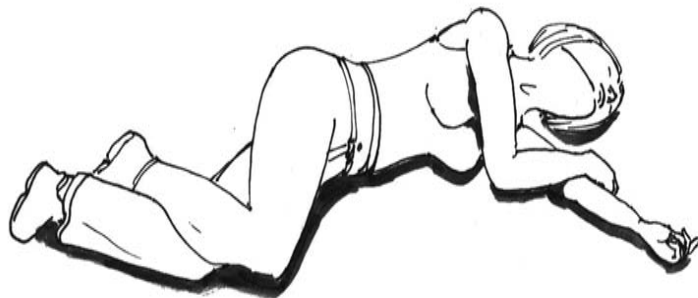
# How is it taken?

The drug is consumed either by sniffing the powder or swallowing it wrapped in a cigarette paper, a technique known as 'bombing'.



# Dose & Overdose

- ❑ Naphyrone is very potent, so a dose of only 25mg would have an effect.
- ❑ Since this dose is very small it is unlikely that users will be able to (with any degree of accuracy) measure this amount. This increases the risk of overdose.
- ❑ Differences in potency between apparently identical branded products could also lead to overdose or unexpected pharmacological effects.
- ❑ Naphyrone has 3 separate modes of action which increases the potential for adverse reactions if mixed with other legal highs, stimulants or prescribed medication.



# Overview

- ❖ The role of the internet cannot be underestimated.
- ❖ Risky use is common.
- ❖ Young people may underestimate the risks – including the risk of being arrested.
- ❖ Rate of serious adverse effects are low but are present.
- ❖ Need for a more co-ordinated active response to drugs such as Naphyrone and Mephedrone.
- ❖ More research is needed.
- ❖ A range of similar drugs are now available but are not yet controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

# What can I do?

- Empower yourself – seek out training and further knowledge
- Consider cross-curricular links
- Ensure your drug policy is up to date
- Be aware of responses to drug related incidents
- Listen, don't judge
- Signpost to support services
- Keep an open mind!



# Sources of help & information

## NRG-1 resources:

- **FRANK** [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) 0800 77 66 00

## Help services:

- Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Service for Herts  
**A-DASH@hertspartsft.nhs.uk**      **Tel 01923 427 288**  
**Text 07770 537227**
- Parental Drug & Alcohol Service (**PDAS**)  
**pdas@btinternet.com**      **Tel 01707 39 39 34**



# Sources of information used

- Consideration of the naphthylpyrovalerone analogues and related compounds (*ACMD July 2010*)
- 1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-pentan-1-one (Pyrovalerone) analogs. A promising class of monoamine uptake inhibitors (*J Med Chem. 2006*)
- Pyrovalerone info, downloaded July 2010 (*www.en.wikipedia.org*)
- National Toxicology Database
- FRANK (*www.talktofrank.com*)
- Drugscope (*www.drugscope.org.uk/resources/drugsearch/drugsearchpages/Naphyrone*)