**Illegal Drug Information**

Illegal drug activity is the use, sale or purchase of any drug that is illegal under the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/cannabis-information/consumer-information.html).

Some of the most commonly used illegal drugs are:

- GHB ("Date Rape Drug")
- Marijuana, Hash, Hash Oil (cannabis)
- Methamphetamine (methylamphetamine, speed, crack, ice)
- Ecstasy ("E")
- Cocaine/crack cocaine
- Magic mushrooms
- Heroin
- LSD (acid)

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A. **GHB ("Date Rape Drug")**

One of the more dangerous drugs that servers should be aware of is GHB. It is also called the "Date Rape Drug".

It is called the "Date Rape Drug" because it has been used to drug someone to make them unconscious so that they can be sexually assaulted, taken advantage of or victimized in some way. Individuals who have been drugged are vulnerable and have no ability to protect themselves. They often have little or no memory of what has happened.

**Why is it important for me to know about GHB and what do I need to know?**

- GHB is dangerous because it can be put into someone’s drink (glass, bottle or can) without their knowledge or permission to drug them.
- GHB comes as a liquid, powder or pill and has **no colour or smell** to it. If it is added to a drink the person being drugged is not able to taste or smell it.
- The drug will be put into a drink that is not being watched – often when it is left because the customer has gone to the bathroom, to dance, or outside to smoke.
- GHB starts to work very quickly. Drugged customers will suddenly become drowsy, confused or pass out.
- Females are the most common victim of date rape drugging, however males are sometimes accidentally or even purposefully drugged and at risk for crimes like sexual assault, kidnapping, theft, and assault.
What do I need to do to help keep my customers safe?

- I need to watch for customers with small liquid containers such as eye-drop bottles.
- I should give drinks directly to the person who will be drinking them.
- If I see a drink that is unattended, it should be cleared away. I should tell customers to have a trusted friend watch their drink or not to leave their drinks unattended if they go to the washroom, to dance, to smoke, etc.
- I need to watch all of my customers (especially my female customers) for signs of drugging by GHB or other drugs. A victim of GHB drugging will:
  - suddenly become very relaxed, sleepy, unconscious and unaware of what is happening.
  - move slowly and may be unable to stand, sit, or walk without help
  - usually be confused and have difficulty speaking
- If a passed out or unconscious customer is leaving with a group or individual, I need to ask questions to be sure the customer is leaving in safe hands and that they will be cared for after they leave. I need to make sure they know who they are with and that they trust them. I can offer to call someone who they say they trust (friend, family, etc.).
- If I don’t think the customer is in safe hands, I should try to prevent them from leaving or ask the person they are with for identification.
- If I am very concerned about the customer’s health or safety, I should call the police and/or an ambulance for help.
- I need to document this information in the incident log.

B. Marijuana, Hash and Hash Oil (Cannabis)

Cannabis is sold as:
- Marijuana
- Hashish (or hash)
- Hash oil

Signs of cannabis use are:
- Strong odour of the drug
- Red eyes
- Slow mental reactions
- Sudden laughter, giggles

Source: http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/drugs-droguers/poster-affiche/ghb-eng.htm#details
C. Methamphetamine (“Meth”)

This drug is usually referred to as “Meth”. It is available in three forms:
- Crystals
- Powder
- Tablets (may look like pills or candies with designs on them)

Some signs that your customer may be using this drug are:
- Dry mouth
- Dilated (big) pupils
- Difficulty focusing vision (blurred vision)
- Fast heartbeat and breathing
- Anxiety, restless, tremors, hyperactivity
- May have an unusual body odor (similar to cat urine, rotten eggs, or chemicals)
- Skin sores from scratching (they may feel like they have “crawling bugs” under their skin)

D. Ecstasy

Ecstasy often has other illegal drugs in it, such as LSD, ketamine, or methamphetamine.
- Usually sold in pill or tablet form in many different colours (they may look like candies with designs on them).

Some signs that your customer may be using this drug are:
- Muscle tension
- Uncontrolled movements, teeth chattering
- Rapid blinking of eyes, dilated pupils
- Hyperthermia
- Dehydration
- Confusion
- Anxiety

E. Cocaine/crack cocaine

“Crack” is a stronger and cheaper form of cocaine. Cocaine and crack are sold as a white powder or as small crystals (sometimes called rocks).

Signs of cocaine and/or crack cocaine use are:
- Dilated (big) pupils
- Chapped nostrils, sniffing and nose bleeds
- Needle marks on their skin (usually on the inside of their elbows)
- Slurred speech
- Rapid heart and breathing rate

F. Magic Mushrooms

Magic mushrooms are usually sold as dried mushrooms or as a powder.

Signs of magic mushroom use are:
- Dilated (big) pupils
- Extreme moods, laughing, giddy
- Hallucinations, irrational thoughts, anxiety, nervousness, paranoia
- Nausea, headache
- Muscle weakness/twitching

G. Heroin

Pure heroin is a fine, white crystalline powder. The heroin sold on the streets may not be pure white in colour because it is mixed with other substances.

Signs of heroin use are:
- Decreased response to pain
- Small (pinpoint) pupils
- Slowed speech and movements
- Needle marks on their skin (most often on their arms)

H. LSD (Acid)

LSD is also called “acid”, and it is sold as:
- Blotters. These are tiny pieces of paper that may have pictures or cartoons on them like stamps or children’s stickers.
- Sugar cubes
- Small pills or capsules (various shapes and colours)

Signs of use are:
- Hallucinations and speech may not make sense
- Uncontrollable laughter, very excitable
- Appearing wild-eyed, dilated (big) pupils

Source: http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/drugs-drogues/poster-affiche/ghb-eng.htm#details