COCAINE

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BANK CARD

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Slang names for cocaine include coke, white, toot, charlie, ching and snow. There is a white powder form or a rock form called crack cocaine which looks like crystals the size of a peanut.

## HOW IS IT USED?

Powdered cocaine is chopped up and split into lines using a bank card or razor blade. This is to make the powder as fine as possible so it can be snorted easily up the nose typically using a rolled up bank note. Crack cocaine on the other hand is smoked using a pipe or plastic bottle. Both types can be prepared to a solution and injected.

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS AND RISKS?

Cocaine is a strong stimulant that makes people feel very confident, chatty and makes them lose their appetite. Powdered cocaine only lasts for about 30 minutes and crack cocaine even less for about 10 minutes! Both types put a massive strain on the heart and raises the body's temperature. Snorting will seriously damage the cartilage in the nose whilst smoking it will cause breathing problems and pains in the chest. Sharing needles or snorting equipment like a bank note can spread HIV and hepatitis infections. There are mental health problems too including depression, paranoia, sleeping problems and panic attacks.

## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Any kind of cocaine is a class A drug which is the most dangerous category of all the drugs put together. The penalty is a maximum of 7 years for possession and supplying someone else, including your friends, can get you life in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

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