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## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In its purest form, heroin is a white powder but no drug is ever 100% pure. Dealers often mix it with brick dust, flour, sugar and nutmeg which then change the colour to brownish white to brown.

## HOW IS IT USED?

When smoked, the heroin is heated on tin foil and a fine line of smoke comes from it. The smoke is then inhaled through a straw or small tube (also known as chasing the dragon). Users of this drug quickly build up a tolerance meaning they need more and more of the drug to feel the same effects. This can lead to injecting the drug (dissolving with water) to feel the effects quicker and stronger.

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS AND RISKS?

Users of this drug report it gives them a feeling of warmth and wellbeing and acts as a strong pain killer. Heroin is a depressant drug meaning it slows down the body but so much so that it can lead to coma or overdose as it can cause breathing to completely stop. Injecting heroin is very dangerous due to the damage of the veins and arteries producing gangrene and infections. Also if the injecting equipment is shared, this puts the user at risk of viruses such as hepatitis and HIV.

## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Heroin is a class A drug, so it's illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell. Possession can get you up to seven years in prison and/or an unlimited fine and supplying someone else can get you up to life imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.