

Volatile substances

(gases, glues, aerosols and others)

LEGAL STATUS: Legal

But *illegal* to sell knowingly for inhalation to under-18s.

Worth knowing...

- Volatile substances can lead to coma and heart problems, and can be fatal on first use
- It is important not to scare or chase someone who has sniffed or inhaled volatile substances as a sudden shock can be fatal
- Recent studies in Britain have found that 7-10% of secondary school pupils have tried solvents
- It is an offence to sell gas lighter refills (butane) to an under-18 year-old
- An average home contains about 30 products that could be abused in this way.

It's a fact...

About 15 young people die every year in England from sniffing volatile substances. That is more than one a month.

OTHER NAMES/SLANG:

Glue, gas, aerosols, lighter fuel.

USUALLY FOUND AS:

Liquid, glue, aerosol or gas.

HOW IT'S TAKEN:

Vapours or gases inhaled through nose/mouth, sometimes using cloth, sleeves or plastic bags.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE USE:

Unexpected finds of gas lighter refills; hairspray; deodorants; air fresheners; adhesives; paints; thinners; correcting fluids; cleaning fluids; surgical spirit or dry-cleaning fluids. Smelly cloth, sleeves or plastic bags.

EFFECTS ON USER:

Feelings of dizziness and intoxication. Lack of inhibition, giggling, or sickness and drowsiness. The effects are almost immediate and last for about 30 minutes.

