



What is methamphetamine? What does it look like? How is methamphetamine abused? Methamphetamine is a synthetic (man-made) stimulant that is highly addictive. The drug is abused because it produces euphoric effects—sometimes described as a sense of well-being—that can last up to 24 hours. Methamphetamine is inexpensive and relatively easy to produce—making it affordable and readily available to teenagers. Because methamphetamine can be produced using many different methods, its appearance can vary dramatically. The drug may be sold either as a powder—sometimes crystalline—or as rock-like chunks. The color of methamphetamine likewise varies: white, yellow, brown, gray, orange, and pink all have been observed. Methamphetamine can be injected, smoked, snorted, or ingested orally. Injecting or smoking the drug produces an immediate and intense rush. The euphoric effect that results from snorting or ingesting the drug is not as intense and requires more time to take effect—3 to 5 minutes for snorting and 15 to 20 minutes for oral ingestion.