

The alcohol and other drug slang dictionary

Dovetail frequently gets requests from workers for information on alcohol and other drugs slang terms. Knowing these terms can be beneficial for conducting assessments and effectively communicating with young people. This guide is the result of consultation with Queensland youth alcohol and other drug workers, noting it is not a definitive resource. Slang terms are often specific to certain contexts, and they can also vary across different regions and social or cultural networks.

It is important for workers to exercise caution and use their professional judgement when using this guide, as slang terms can be easily misunderstood or misused. Some terms carry associated stigma despite being used by people who use drugs. Additionally, it is worth noting that the media sometimes creates terms that are rarely, if ever, used by people who use drugs and are solely utilised by the media for sensational reporting and have not been included in this resource.

If you have any additional slang terms to contribute or if you are aware of different definitions, please contact us at dovetail@health.qld.gov.au

A | B

Acid

LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide)

Amyl

Amyl nitrate

Angel Dust

Phencyclidine (PCP), a dissociative anaesthetic

Angel Trumpets

Datura stramonium or plants from the Brugmansia genus – refers to the large trumpet shaped flowers of the plant, most parts of these plants contain scopolamine, hyoscyamine and atropine, which causes delirium when ingested

Ayahuasca

A hallucinogenic tea from South America, usually containing a mixture of Psychotria viridis (containing the hallucinogen DMT) and Banisteriopsis caapi (containing harmala alkaloids, which are MAOIs) – contemporary forms may include DMT containing Acacia species, or harmala alkaloids from Syrian rue seed

Baccie bong

Tobacco smoked through a bong (see bong)

Baggie

A small clip seal plastic bag used to store illicit substances

Baked

Cannabis intoxication

Ball

Short for an '8-ball' which is 3.5 grams of a substance

Bang

To inject a drug

Bank/Banking

To conceal illegal drugs internally e.g. "I banked my pills to get them past the sniffer dogs at the music festival"

Base

A form of methamphetamine – often brown / beige / reddish, and can come in a slightly moist form that appears like a paste, generally considered to be low to medium purity

methamphetamine

Bath Salts

Methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), although can refer to any stimulant from the cathinone family

Bender

A binge on alcohol or other drugs

Benzos

Short for benzodiazepines

Biccies

Short for "disco biscuits" – a term describing MDMA in tablet form

Billy

A cannabis water pipe

Blast

To inject a drug

Blazed

Cannabis intoxication

Blow

Cocaine

B | C

Blue Meanies

Magic mushrooms. In Queensland and northern New South Wales, Blue Meanies refers to the *Panaeolus* (or *Copelandia*) *cyanescens* species

Blue Nitro

GHB (usually appears as a clear liquid, but may sometimes be coloured bright blue)

Blunt

A joint rolled with cigar paper

Bomb

Consuming a substance orally, by wrapping in a cigarette paper or tissue and swallowing

Bombed up

A term used (predominantly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) to describe cannabis intoxication

Bong

A cannabis water pipe, often home made, consisting of a small plastic bottle, a piece of hose and a cone piece often made from foil

Boof/Boofing

To inject a drug

Boot/Booting

To inject a drug

Booty Bump

Rectal administration of a drug

Box

Cask wine

Brekky Cones

Smoking cannabis in the morning, at breakfast time

Brew/Brews/Brewskis

Alcohol, particularly beer

Brick

2mg Xanax (alprazolam) bar. These tablets are most commonly counterfeit alprazolam and can contain novel benzodiazepines or other substances

Bucket Bong

A cannabis smoking device that utilises a plastic bottle with the bottom removed, placed into a bucket of water. The cannabis is placed in a cone piece that sits across the mouth of the bottle. When the bottle is lifted up out of the water, gravity causes air to pass through the cone piece, filling the bottle with a large quantity of cannabis smoke, which is ingested in one inhalation. Bucket bongs tend to produce a more intense intoxication than other routes of administration

Bud

The flowering heads of the cannabis plant

Bulbs

Nitrous oxide in the form of a whipped cream charger

Bum Rush

A sensation that occurs in the anus and surrounding area following IV administration of some substances

Bump

A snort of a small amount of a substance (often ketamine or cocaine), sometimes off a key or a dedicated device known as a snuff bullet

Bunga

Cigarettes, particularly roll your own cigarettes

Bupe

Short for buprenorphine, a drug used in medically assisted treatment for opioid dependence

Bush

Cannabis believed to be grown in the outdoors

Bute

Short for 1,4 Butanediol, a chemical that converts to GHB upon ingestion

Cactus/Cactus Powder

Often refers to mescaline containing cactus such as San Pedro or peyote cactus. The cactus can be dried and ground into a powder form

Cake

Cocaine and ketamine used in combination

Calvin Klein

Cocaine and ketamine used in combination

Candy Flip

The combined use of MDMA and LSD

CanKet

A novel psychoactive substance, 2F-NENDCK (short for 2-fluoro-N-ethylnordeschloroketamine), sometimes sold as ketamine

Caps

Capsules – typically containing MDMA

Cask

Cask wine

Changa

Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) soaked plant material in cigarette form

Charge/Charged Up

A term used (predominantly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) to describe alcohol and/or alcohol intoxication

Charlie

Cocaine

Chasing

A term used to describe the process of acquiring drugs e.g. "Are you chasing?"

Chasing the Dragon

The smoking of heroin off foil. As the heroin heats up, the smoke can curl off the foil. It is believed that this curling of the smoke resembles the curls of a dragon's tail

Choof/Choofing

Cannabis / smoking cannabis

Chop/Chop Up

Cannabis chopped or ground into a new form in order to be smoked. Can also be used to describe the act of smoking cannabis e.g. "Let's go have a chop"

Chop-Chop

Illegal tobacco

Chopped

MDMA intoxication

Chroming

The inhalation of spray paint fumes. Originally referred specifically to the inhalation of chrome coloured paint, but now refers to the inhalation of any spray paint. In some cases the term is used generically to describe the use of any inhalant

Chronic

High potency cannabis, also known as "hydro"

Ciggie

A cigarette

Clean

A term used to describe abstinence. It can be considered pejorative in some cases, as the alternative is "dirty"

Clippy Bag

A plastic clip seal bag used to store drugs

Coke

Cocaine

Coming Down

The period after peak drug effects, where the substance effect subsides

Cone/Cones

Cannabis or cannabis smoking, referring to the cone piece used in a smoking device

Cone Piece

A part of a cannabis smoking utensil which is shaped like a cone. A cone piece could be home-made, out of foil, or could be purchased from a tobacco shop

Cooked

A word that describes intoxication

Crab

An unsavoury character

Crack

In Australia this term is generally used to describe crystal methamphetamine. In the United States, "crack" refers to crack cocaine, however crack cocaine is extremely rare in Australia

Crack Pipe/Crackie

A glass pipe for smoking crystal methamphetamine

Cracker

A device used to release nitrous oxide from whipped cream chargers. The nitrous is usually released into a balloon, and is then inhaled

Crystal

Crystal methamphetamine

Crystal Pistol

A glass pipe for smoking crystal methamphetamine

Cut

Drugs that have been adulterated with an inert substance designed to increase profit for distributors

Dabbing

The consumption of a small portion of hash oil, wax or 'shatter' which is placed onto a vaporiser, heated and inhaled

Darb

Cigarette

Dart

Can be used to describe a cigarette, and can also be used to describe a needle/syringe

Dexies

Dexamphetamine

Dialled

Intoxicated on a substance

Dimitri

DMT

Dinger

MDMA in tablet form (variation on pinger)

Dirty Shot

Contaminated drugs that may cause an adverse reaction when injected e.g. headache, fever, chills, death

Dog

Someone who is untrustworthy or disloyal

Done

(Pronounced like "own"). Shortened word for methadone

Doobie

A cannabis cigarette

D | E | F | G

Doof Trip

DMT

Dope

Usually used to describe cannabis, but can also be used to describe heroin

Double Drop

Taking two MDMA tablets or two tabs of LSD at the same time

Dry Hit/Dry Puff

When a vape runs out of liquid, the internal mechanisms can burn and release toxic fumes

Dumper

A cigarette rolled with tobacco sourced from dumped cigarette butts

Dutchie

A pre-rolled cannabis cigarette or joint. Also used to describe an enclosed space (e.g. car, bedroom) in which cannabis is smoked (derived from 'dutch oven')

Durrie

A cigarette

Dusties

The fine particles of cannabis left over after chopping cannabis in a grinder, bowl or tin

E

MDMA

Eight (8) Ball

A measurement term used to describe an eighth of an ounce or 3.5 grams of a drug

Ekky

MDMA, typically in tablet form

Ekky Tuesday

Experiencing low mood after the effects of MDMA have worn off. This typically occurs a few days after using MDMA, stereotypically the Tuesday after using MDMA on a Saturday night

Elbow

A measurement term to describe a pound (lb) of drugs

Emma

MDMA

Eze

MDMA

Face Melter

Intoxication from a hallucinogenic substance

Fantasy/Fanta

GHB or a similar substance such as 1,4-BD or GBL

Fast

Methamphetamine

Fiending

A strong craving to use a substance

Fifty Bag

\$50 worth of cannabis

Fish Scale

Cocaine, considered to be very high purity

Fishys

Plastic fish shaped soy sauce container that usually contains GHB/GBL/1,4 B

Fit

Needle/syringe

Flakka

α -Pyrrolidinopentiophenone (α -PVP)

Flipper

MDMA

Foil

\$25 worth of cannabis wrapped in aluminium foil

Four By Two (or 4-Bee)

Rhyming slang for "screw" (see screw)

Four Twenty (420)

A term used to describe cannabis. The term originated in California where a group of friends met each afternoon at 4:20pm to smoke cannabis. It is now recognised in some parts of the world as a counter cultural holiday, celebrated on the 20th of April

Frank

GHB or a similar substance such as 1,4-BD or GBL

Freebase

The process of converting a substance to an alkaloid form which can then be smoked, to deliver an increased effect – most common example being the "crack" form of cocaine

G

GHB / GBL. Also a 'gram' of a substance

G Sleep

A GHB overdose

Gak

Cocaine

Gas

This term might refer to methamphetamine, but can also refer to steroids

G'd Out

A GHB overdose

Gear

Various substances or paraphernalia including heroin / steroids / other illicit drugs / injecting equipment

Get On

The process of acquiring drugs

Glass

Crystal methamphetamine

Glass Barbie

A methamphetamine pipe

G | H | I | J | K

Glass Harley

A glass pipe for smoking crystal methamphetamine

Go/Goey

Methamphetamine

Gold Tops

Or 'magic mushrooms' – in Queensland, gold tops refers to *Psilocybe cubensis*

Googs/Googies

MDMA tablet – derived from 'eggs' (ecstasy)

Goon/Goon Bag

Wine in a flagon or cask

Grass

Cannabis

Greening Out

When a person feels sick from using cannabis, often caused by the combination of cannabis and alcohol, or a cannabis overdose – typically involving nausea or vomiting

Grey Nurse/Greys

Morphine tablets, particular MS Contin, with the 100mg tablet being coloured grey

Grief

The leaf and stem from cannabis which is at the bottom of the bag that a person purchases it in – the grief is considered unpleasant to smoke

Grinder

A small metal grinding device that is used to chop cannabis to prepare it for smoking

Grog

Alcohol

Growth

Steroids, particularly Human Growth Hormone (HGH)

Gunja

Cannabis

Gurner

A person intoxicated on MDMA

Gurning

The teeth grinding and jaw movement typically seen in MDMA intoxication

H

Heroin

Half Weight

A measurement term – used to describe half a gram of drugs

Hammer

Heroin

Harry

Heroin

Hash

Resin from the flowers of the cannabis plant

High

Under the influence of drugs

Hippy Flip

A combination of MDMA and magic mushrooms

Hit Up

To inject a drug

Holding

In possession of a drug

Honey Oil

Cannabis resin / oil

Hooch

Cannabis

Hooter

Cannabis

Hot Knife

A method of hashish administration that involves pressing a small quantity of hashish between two heated knives, and inhaling the smoke that is produced

Hot Shot

An injection of a substance that is designed to cause death. The administration or supply of a hot shot can be considered murder

Hydro/Hydge

Cannabis, assumed to be grown indoors using hydroponics

Ice

Crystal methamphetamine

Indica

The Cannabis indica plant, a particular species of cannabis

Jack

A colloquial term for police

Joint

A cannabis cigarette

Juice

Can be used to describe either steroids or GHB

Jumped On

Drugs which have been adulterated or 'cut', usually with an inert substance designed to increase the profit margin for the distributor

K

Ketamine

Ket

Ketamine

Key

Short for kilogram

K-Hole

Ketamine intoxication that results in the person becoming immobilised – for many, a K-hole is considered an overdose, and is often thought of as being unpleasant

K | L | M | N | O | P

Kief/"Kif"

The fine residue of dried cannabis which accumulates in the bottom of a cannabis storage container or grinder. The kief can include cannabis trichomes, which are high in THC. From the Arabic "kayf" which means pleasure, or intoxication

Kine

High quality cannabis

Kronic

Synthetic cannabis – specifically the JWH 018 chemical which mimics the effects of cannabis and is applied to an inert herbal product

Lean

Over the counter cough syrup mixed with soft drink. It can contain codeine, dihydrocodeine or DXM. The term is most commonly associated with particular styles of American hip hop

Lines

Powdered drugs prepared into small lines, which can then be snorted

Lip pillow

A nicotine pouch

Liquid Ecstasy

GHB

Lit

An American term which refers to being intoxicated e.g. "Let's get lit"

Love

Prison slang that describes diverted buprenorphine e.g. "Show us some love"

Lower decky

A nicotine pouch placed in the mouth between the lower gum and cheek (as opposed to an "upper decky" which is placed between the upper gum and cheek)

M

MDMA

Mainline

To inject a drug

MD

MDMA

Mesc/Mescaline

Mescaline is a hallucinogenic phenethylamine, generally appearing in its natural form as cactus or cactus powder

Meth

Methamphetamine

Michael Douglas

MDMA

Microdot

A very small tablet impregnated with LSD

Molly

MDMA in powder or crystal form

Moon Boots

A term used to describe being under the influence of ketamine e.g. "I got my moon boots on last night"

Mull

Cannabis itself / but also to 'mull up' refers to chopping up cannabis in order to smoke it

Mull-O-Matic

A device for chopping large quantities of cannabis e.g. coffee grinder

Munted

Intoxicated on MDMA

Mushies

Magic mushrooms

Nangs

Nitrous oxide in the form of whipped cream chargers

N-Bomb

A drug from the NBOMe family such as 25I-NBOMe or 25C-NBOMe

NBOMe

N-methoxybenzyl – can include 25I-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, 25E-NBOMe

Nic sick

A term to describe having too much nicotine, usually involving symptoms of dizziness, headache and nausea

Nitrous

Nitrous oxide

Nose Beer

Cocaine

Nuggs

A shortened term for the word nuggets and used to describe cannabis buds

On The Nod

Under the influence of opioids

Oscar

A measurement term used to describe an ounce (oz) of a drug

Ox Blood

Methamphetamine that appears in a dark red liquid form

Oxies

Short for oxycodone (often the brand name Oxycontin), a prescription opioid medication

P

Short for 'pure' – referring to crystal methamphetamine

Packet

\$50 worth of heroin

Packing

A term used for the act of using a nicotine pouch

P | Q | R

Parachuting

Consuming a substance orally, sometimes by wrapping in a cigarette paper and swallowing

Peaking

The moment in which a drug has reached its peak effect – typically associated with MDMA or LSD use

Pearl Tickets

Cocaine

Peev

Short for “PV”, a term used to describe MDPV

Persian Rugs

Drugs

Peruvian Flake

Cocaine which is considered high quality

Pick

A needle/syringe

Pills

Can be used to describe MDMA or benzodiazepines

Pin

A needle/syringe

Pingers

MDMA in tablet form

Pink Champagne

Methamphetamine which has a pink colour

Pink cocaine

A pink powdered substance known as tusi, tuci or tucibi. Typically contains a mix of illicit drugs like ketamine, MDMA, and methamphetamine and may or may not contain any actual cocaine (see also “tusi”)

Pinned

Intoxicated on opioids, referring to pinpoint pupils

Pipe

A smoking utensil either for cannabis or crystal methamphetamine

Piss

Alcohol

Pissed

Alcohol intoxication

Plug

Rectal administration of a substance

Point

A measurement term used to describe 0.1 of a gram

Poppers

Amyl nitrite

Pot

Cannabis

Puff

To smoke crystal methamphetamine e.g “Let’s go have a puff”

Pulling Cones/Punching Cones

Smoking cannabis typically through a water pipe

Purple Drank/Purps

Over the counter cough syrup mixed with soft drink. It can contain codeine, dihydrocodeine or DXM. The term is most commonly associated with particular styles of American hip hop

PV

MDPV

Quarter/Q (1/4)

A measurement term used to describe either a quarter ounce of cannabis, or a quarter gram of heroin

Quick

Methamphetamine

Racehorse

A very thin hand rolled cigarette or joint

Rack

Preparing a powdered substance into lines for snorting e.g. “Let’s rack up some coke”

Rail/Railing

Snorting lines of powdered substances

Red

A term describing intravenous drug use

Resin/Rez/Res

A black tar-like substance that coats used cannabis utensils – can be smoked, as it contains cannabinoids; resin can also refer to a form of cannabis (sold overseas)

Ripped

Cannabis intoxication

Rock

Can refer to substances like crystal methamphetamine, MDMA or heroin that appear clumped – often assumed to be of higher purity

Roids

Steroids

Rollies

Roll your own tobacco

Rolling

Being under the influence of MDMA

Rolls

MDMA tablets

Roundies

MDMA in tablet form

Rowies

Rohypnol

R | S

Rush

A popular brand of amyl nitrite

Sativa

The Cannabis sativa plant, a particular species of cannabis

Sattie Bag

A plastic clip seal bag, used to store substances

Scattered

As the effects of stimulants like methamphetamine wear off, people sometimes experience mild confusion e.g. "I'm not answering my phone right now, I'm way too scattered"

Scoob

A cannabis cigarette

Scooby Snack

Cannabis in an edible form, for example a cannabis brownie or biscuit

Score

Buying drugs

Screw

A pejorative term for a prison guard

Sesh

Short for "session" – used to describe someone going to use cannabis with others e.g. "going for a sesh"

Session

The act of smoking cannabis

Shabu

Can refer to methamphetamine

Shaft/Shafting

Rectal administration of a substance

Shard

Crystal methamphetamine

Shatter

THC extract from the cannabis plant

Shelve

Rectal or intravaginal administration of a substance

Shoot Up

To inject a drug

Shot

An injected drug e.g. "have a shot"

Shotty/Shot Gun

A hole on the side of a bong designed to allow air into the chamber, in order to increase the movement of smoke through the device – sometimes referred to as a "carb" (carburettor)

Shrooms

Short for 'magic mushrooms'

Silver pillow

A cask wine or 'goon' bag

Skag

Heroin

Skunk

High potency hydroponic cannabis

Slab

A carton of beer

Slam

To inject a drug

Slow

Heroin and other opioids

Sly Grog

Alcohol brought into communities with alcohol restrictions

Smack

Heroin

Smashed

A generic term used to describe intoxication

Smoke

Cannabis or tobacco smoking

Smokes

Cigarettes

Sniff/Sniffing

Inhalant use

Snow Cone

When a powdered substance is sprinkled on top of cannabis which is then smoked through a bong or a pipe

Snuff

A substance that can be sniffed or snorted

Snus

A form of moist, smokeless tobacco which is placed under the upper lip for extended periods

Special K

Ketamine

Speed

Methamphetamine in powder form, generally of low purity

Spice

Used to describe either DMT (sometimes called 'Elf Spice') or a brand of synthetic cannabis

Spin

Tobacco mixed with cannabis. e.g. "did you spin the pot?"

Spliff

A cannabis cigarette

Stacking

The process of taking multiple pills at once

Stick

A 'foil' of cannabis, usually worth \$25

Stoker

A toothpick-like implement used to unblock 'cone pieces'

Stoned

Being intoxicated on cannabis

S | T | U | V | W

Stood On

Describes drugs which have been adulterated, usually with an inert substance in order to increase profits for the distributor

Straight

Not currently affected by alcohol and/or other drugs

Subbies

Short for Subutex / Suboxone – used in opioid replacement therapy (ORT)

Swabs

Wipes containing 70% isopropyl alcohol, designed to clean a site before injecting

Synthetic Cannabis

Any one of a number of substances designed to mimic the effects of THC/cannabis

Tabs

Blotter paper usually impregnated with LSD

Tailors/Tailor-mades

Packaged cigarettes

Taste

A small amount of drugs given or shared

T-Break

A planned period of not using cannabis with the intention of reducing tolerance

Temaze/Temazzies

Temazepam

Tick

The purchase of drugs on credit e.g. “Can I get that on tick?” – there may also be references to the ‘tick bill’ which is the amount of money owed to a drug dealer

Tickets

LSD in blotter form

Tina

Short for ‘Christina’ used to describe crystal methamphetamine

Tinnie

\$25 worth of cannabis wrapped in aluminium foil / also a can of beer

Toasted

Cannabis intoxication

Toasting Cones/Toasting Hotties

The process of smoking cannabis

Triple Dropping

Taking three pills at one time

Tripping

Under the influence of a hallucinogenic drug, typically LSD or magic mushrooms

Tripping Balls

Intense hallucinations caused by an hallucinogenic substance

Trips

LSD

Tripstacy

Short for “trippy ecstasy” – a tablet which was meant to be MDMA, but produced an hallucinogenic effect, which could be NBOME, 2CB etc.

Trumpet

A large joint that is thicker at one end

Tusi/Tuci/Tucibi

A pink powdered substance typically containing a mix of illicit drugs like ketamine, MDMA, and methamphetamine. Sometimes referred to as “pink cocaine”, Tusi is a phonetic translation of “2C”, a series of psychedelic phenethylamines. Despite these associations, Tusi rarely contains either cocaine or 2C series drugs

Tweaker/Tweaking

A person under the influence of methamphetamine can be said to be ‘tweaking’

Twirl

Smoking methamphetamine out of a glass pipe, where the pipe is moved in a circular motion to ensure all of the methamphetamine is vaporised

Up

Methamphetamine

Up The Murray Cod

Can be used to describe someone under the influence of opioids (rhyming slang – “on the nod”)

Upper Decky

A nicotine pouch placed in the mouth between the upper gum and cheek (as opposed to a “lower decky” which is placed between the lower gum and cheek)

Vals/Vallies

Short for Valium a popular brand of diazepam

Vape Juice

A slang term for e-liquid, designed to be used in a vape usually containing a mixture of propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin

Vape/Vaping

Commonly refers to an electronic device that vaporises nicotine liquid for inhalation – can also refer to a cannabis vaporiser or the act of vaporising cannabis

Wake ‘n’ Bake

Using cannabis in the morning

Wash/Wash Bag

Drug remnants left over in a bag

Wasted

A word for intoxication

W | X | Y | Z

Wax

THC extract

Weed

Cannabis

Weight Or Full Weight

One gram of drugs

Wesley Snipes/Pipes

A glass pipe for smoking crystal methamphetamine

Whack/Whack Up

To inject a drug

Whiz/Whizza

Methamphetamine

Wired

Intoxication on a stimulant like methamphetamine or cocaine

XTC

MDMA

Yarndi

A term used (predominantly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) to describe cannabis

Zannies

Variation / short for "Xanax" a familiar brand name for the benzodiazepine alprazolam

Zeroing

Inhaling cannabis smoke or e-cigarette vapour and holding it in long enough that there is no visible smoke or vapour upon exhalation

Zingers

MDMA in tablet form (see also 'pingers' / 'dingers')

Zippers/Zipped

Intoxicated on opioids referring to the pinpoint pupils of someone intoxicated on opioids

Zip

A term for methamphetamine

Zyns/Zynnies

A nicotine pouch. "Zyn" is a brand of nicotine pouch

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