

# Police, Lawmakers Seek Ban On 'Bath Salts' Used For Legal High

Monday, January 31, 2011 5:11 PM

**MANSFIELD, Ohio** — A growing number of central Ohioans are ingesting chemicals sold as bath salts to get a legal high and law enforcement officials are urging lawmakers to take action.

The drugs are sold as bath salts throughout central Ohio and police said once a person smokes or snorts it, they experience violent hallucinations, 10TV's Kevin Landers reported.

Mansfield police are so concerned they have asked the law director to ban the powder, making it illegal to sell it in the city.

"It doesn't look like the bath salts that I remember," said Tony Tambassco, director of the Mansfield crime lab. "When I first got it in, I didn't know what it was."

The salts are different from typical bath salts. They are sold in small packages, under the names white ivory, blue silk, and white lightning among others.

The salts contain a chemical called MDPV and sell for about \$20 a gram, Landers reported.

Mansfield police believe they have come into contact with at least five people who may have ingested the white powder and each hallucination was worse than the next.

"He was swimming down the road (saying) that the Mexican mafia was shooting at him and the officer needed to get down because there was a sniper in the area," said officer Marijan Grogza. "There are some serious safety issues. These people become violent. They really believe what they're seeing."

Police reports detailed one person "screaming and cursing at people who weren't there" and another person claimed there were "demons attacking him."

One man called police claiming that someone broke into their house and was threatening his life, holding a gun to his head but responding officers found nothing, Landers reported.

The powder is considered four times as powerful a Ritalin and while it states "not for human consumption" on the package, police said it is not stopping people from getting high.

"It looks innocent, but it could be a very dangerous drug," Grogza said.

Florida has banned the chemical MDPV after a woman high on the drug tried to behead her grandmother with a machete. So far Louisiana is the only other state to ban it, but several other cities, including Huntington, W. Va., have banned it.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is considering making the drug a controlled substance.

Watch 10TV News HD and refresh [10TV.com](http://10TV.com) for additional information.