

The Facts about Legal Marijuana in Washington



Age Limit: Only adults 21 and older can purchase and possess marijuana.

Stores: Marijuana can only be sold and purchased at state-licensed retail stores. A valid photo ID is required, and no one under 21 is allowed on the retail premises. Many retail marijuana stores only accept cash.

Purchase Limits: Adults 21 and over can purchase up to one ounce of useable marijuana (the harvested flowers, or “bud”), 16 ounces of marijuana-infused edibles in solid form, 72 ounces in liquid form, and 7 grams of marijuana concentrates.

No Resale or Giveaways: It remains a felony for anyone but a licensed retailer to sell or provide marijuana to anyone else. Providing or selling marijuana to a minor under the age of 18 is subject to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Public Use: It is illegal to consume marijuana in public view.

Driving: It is illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana, and doing so may result in significant legal penalties.

Travel: It is illegal to take marijuana outside of Washington. Doing so may result in significant legal penalties.

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This brochure was produced by the Washington State Liquor Control Board and its partners. It is intended to provide basic facts about the law and consumer safety. For more consumer-related information, please visit www.LearnAboutMarijuanaWA.org

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Marijuana Use in Washington State An Adult Consumer's Guide

What You Should Know

Edible Products

Read the labels, go slowly, and don't hesitate to ask questions. Legal marijuana edibles are often made with concentrated cannabis oil, meaning they may be much stronger than edibles you have tried in the past. Depending on your body type, edibles can take up to two hours to fully take effect and may impair your ability to drive, work, or operate machinery safely for a longer period of time. Be careful; start with a single 5 mg serving or less, and don't take more until you wait a full two hours. Most importantly, keep edibles far away from children and pets.



Concentrates

Marijuana concentrates come in a number of varieties: oils, hashes, waxes, kief, and amber glass. If marijuana was compared to a light beer, then concentrates would be a stiff whiskey drink. They are strong and have a quick effect, so begin with a small amount.



Vaporizer Pens

Vaporizer pens are relatively new to the legal marijuana market and work similarly to electronic cigarettes. Be careful and go slowly when using them because they often use concentrated cannabis oils.



Call the WA Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you are worried about the health and safety of yourself or others.

Driving, Boating and DUI

It is illegal to drive or operate a boat under the influence of marijuana, and doing so may result in significant legal penalties.

THC is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Similar to the 0.08 blood-alcohol limit, it is illegal to drive with 5 ng/ml of THC or more in your blood if you are 21 or older. If you are under 21, it is illegal to drive with any amount of THC in your blood.

The blood test is performed at a police station or medical facility and requires a blood draw. Published research says it can take 3 hours for some people to drop below 5 ng/ml after using marijuana, but it can take longer depending on multiple variables such as gender and body size.

It is less risky to wait at least 5 hours before operating a vehicle. Keep in mind that edible marijuana products can remain in your system much longer.

If you are not sure whether you are impaired, do not drive! Call a taxi or use a designated driver.

WARNING: Marijuana remains illegal under federal law.

Federal authorities may enforce federal law anywhere within Washington. They especially may choose to do so on federal property (including national parks and forests, federal buildings, and military bases); on navigable waters; and at or near the Canadian border, the coast, airports, and seaports.

Federal authorities may choose to seize marijuana. They also may choose to pursue federal criminal prosecution, particularly in situations involving the presence of firearms, minors acquiring marijuana, interstate transport, and/or large quantities of marijuana.

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, please contact the agency ADA coordinator at (360) 664-1783.

Where to Consume

Private vs. Public

Washington State law protects private marijuana use, so you can consume openly in a residence as long as the property owner allows it. It is illegal to consume marijuana in public view. This includes streets, sidewalks, parks (including state and federal), public hiking trails, and ski resorts.

Hotels

As with tobacco, smoking marijuana in any indoor location is subject to the restrictions in the Washington Smoking in Public Places Law (RCW 70.160). The law prohibits smoking in a public place or place of employment. If the establishment permits it and you are either vaporizing or staying in a room in which smoking is allowed, it is legal to consume marijuana in a private hotel room.

Be Safe and Sensible

Marijuana affects people differently, and it can be misused or abused. This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit-forming. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination and judgment; affect learning and memory; and increase anxiety, panic and paranoia.

Marijuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Marijuana and marijuana-infused products are for use only by adults 21 and older. Keep out of the reach of children and away from pets to reduce the likelihood of accidental ingestion.

Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug.

If your marijuana use ever interferes with your health or safety, or if you feel it is having a negative impact on your life or the lives of those around you, please seek professional help. Contact the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511, or www.WaRecoveryHelpLine.org.