

How drugs can affect driving

CANNABIS

- Impaired concentration resulting in slower driver reaction times.
- Impaired steering control and co-ordination.
- Can induce feelings of paranoia, drowsiness and disorientation.

COCAINE

- This stimulant drug can result in drivers misjudging speed and stopping distances.
- Drivers can experience feelings of over-confidence.
- Drivers may experience feelings of increased aggression and increased risk taking.

ECSTASY/MDMA

- This stimulant drug has hallucinogenic properties and can distort the drivers vision and affect concentration.
- Drivers under the influence show significant decrease in their awareness of road dangers.
- Users of Ecstasy may experience severe fatigue the following day.



LSD

- This hallucinogenic drug can strongly influence a driver's senses.
- Drivers may react to objects or sounds that are not there, placing themselves and other road users in danger.

OPIATES

- Opiates lead to slower reaction times, lethargy, sleepiness and impaired co-ordination.

TRANQUILLISERS

- Tranquillisers may impair driver reaction times and can cause drowsiness.

What the law says...

It's illegal in England and Wales to drive with legal or illegal drugs in your body if it impairs your driving.

Talk to your doctor about whether you should drive if you've been prescribed any of the following drugs:

- temazepam
- clonazepam
- diazepam
- flunitrazepam
- lorazepam
- methadone
- morphine
- oxazepam
- amphetamine, eg. dexamphetamine or selegiline



Drugs that were previously known as "legal highs" have ruined many lives and are now banned under UK law.

Penalties...

Driving under the influence of drugs carries the same penalties as driving under the influence of alcohol.

- a minimum 1 year driving ban
- an unlimited fine
- up to 6 months in prison
- a criminal record

The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drugs is a prison sentence of up to 14 years.

Police officers can stop you at the roadside and make you do a 'field impairment assessment' or use a drug wipe if they suspect you may be driving whilst impaired by drug use.

Before you take to the wheel...

- Drugs affect the way you think and behave and this can have a significant impact on your sense of judgement and reaction times.
- We know that drinking and driving don't mix and alcohol is a drug like any other.
- Be smart about drug driving and think before you get behind the wheel or accept a lift from someone who you know is not in a fit state to drive.
- Remember, possession of illegal drugs is an offence and you could receive a heavy penalty including a fine and/or prison sentence for possession or intent to supply.
- Always read the label if you're taking prescribed medication including antihistamines and tranquillisers. If the label advises against 'operating heavy machinery' consider it a warning not to get behind the wheel.

