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alkyl, isobutyl, amyl

poppers, climax, rush

#### **What are Nitrites?**

- "Poppers" is the popular name for various alkyl nitrites, including isobutyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, and amyl nitrite.
- Doctors used to prescribe amyl nitrite for heart patients in capsules that were broken or "popped" to release vapors.

### **How are Nitrites used?**

 Nitrites are used by sniffing the vapors from an open bottle. The effects are felt within a few seconds and last for 1-2 minutes.

#### What are the effects of Nitrites?

- Nitrites cause muscles around blood vessels to relax, making your heart speed up to pump more blood. Oxygen-rich blood reaching the brain produces a "rush" sensation.
- Because nitrites cause muscles in the anus and vagina to relax, they are often used during sex.

#### What is the dosage of Nitrites?

Every individual reacts differently to every chemical, This information is intended to describe the range of dosages others report using and it should not be construed as a recommendation of any sort. Individuals can respond very differently to the same dosage. What is safe for one can be deadly for another.

A 'dose' of nitrites is the amount that is breathed in in 15-30 seconds. For pure amyl nitrite, a dose was .3ml by inhalation of crushed pre-measured ampule.

## **Harm Reduction Tips for Nitrites**

- Amyl nitrite is made and sold illegally, but most poppers are isobutyl nitrite or butyl nitrite sold in small brown bottles as "video head cleaner," "room deodorizer," or "leather cleaner."
- The exact contents of these products are not known, and they are not safety tested.
- If swallowed call 911 or Poison Control.
- · Contact with the skin causes irritation and rashes.
- Extensive use can damage the nose and lungs.
- Some people experience headaches, sensations of spinning or falling, and loss of erection.
- · Nitrites are highly flammable. Keep away from cigarettes, candles, and lighters.

- Studies show that nitrites reduce the functioning of the immune system for several days after use.
- Because nitrites cause blood vessels to open, it is easier to get an infection, including sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV.
- Nitrites pose extra risks for people who have suppressed immune systems, heart problems, low or high blood pressure, a history of cerebral hemorrhaging, anemia, or are pregnant.
- Combining nitrites with stimulants like speed and cocaine increases risks. Combining citrites and Viagra is dangerous because both cause blood pressure to drop.
- Nitrites can affect your judgment. If you are planning on being intimate, put on a condom before you use them.
- To prevent spilling and evaporation, pour a small amount in a separate bottle filled with cotton and store tightly sealed in a refrigerator or freezer.
- Possession of amyl nitrite without a doctor's prescription is illegal. Federal law bans the manufacture and distribution of butyl nitrite and related substances, although these provisions have not often been enforced.