Bath Salts - FAQs for Retailers

What are "bath salts"?

"Bath salts" is one way of referring to the "designer drugs" methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), 4-methylmethcathinone (mephedrone), 3,4-Methylenedioxymethcathinone (Methylone), 4-Methoxymethcathinone, 4-Fluoromethcathinone and 3-Fluoromethcathinone and Ethylpropion which are unapproved stimulants with chemical compounds similar to Schedule I controlled substances.

What are the dangerous effects of "bath salts" abuse?

Signs and symptoms of abuse are stimulant effects similar to those caused by cocaine and amphetamines, including but not limited to increased heart rate and blood pressure, hallucinations, paranoia, suicidal thoughts, violent behavior and nausea and vomiting.

Use of "bath salts" has also been linked to death.

How are these substances marketed?

Poison control centers throughout the country are reporting that products containing these chemicals, marketed as "bath salts", "plant food" or "research chemicals", have become drugs of abuse. They are sold as, crystals, powders and liquids with a variety of names including, but not limited to:

What is the legal status of these compounds in New York State?

Effective May 20, 2011, these compounds are prohibited from sale and distribution pursuant to an Order for Summary Action signed by the Commissioner of Health. Any individual or entity that receives notice of the Order will be prohibited from selling or distributing products containing these compounds.

How should the retailer dispose/destroy the bath salts?

Retailers must cease all sales and distribution of these compounds. For information related to the disposal/destruction of these products, please contact Melissa Treers of the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management, at (518) 402-8678.