

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 10 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.



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

Driving and DUI

Driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal in Washington and carries serious 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.

Be Safe and Sensible

Marijuana affects people differently, and it can be misused or abused. Marijuana use may be habit-forming. Marijuana can impair coordination and perception, 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 should be kept away from children and pets to reduce the likelihood of accidental ingestion.

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.

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.

Marijuana cannot be consumed in public view, such as on streets and sidewalks, or in public parks. In addition, the state's Smoking in Public Places Law (RCW 70.160) prohibits smoking of any kind in public places and places of employment.

Hotels:

As with tobacco, smoking marijuana in any indoor location is subject to the restrictions in the Washington Smoking in Public Places law. The law prohibits smoking in a public place or place of employment, and within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area. 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.

Boating, Hiking, and Skiing:

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, if you are in navigable waters, they will enforce federal law. Possession of marijuana is still illegal federally. This is also true at national parks. And it is never okay to operate a boat while impaired by marijuana or any other drug. The law against marijuana use in public view applies to state parks, public hiking trails, and ski resorts.

