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## **Cannabis Oil – Fact Sheet**

Cannabis oil is still relatively new, and accurate information on the topic can be hard to come by. This fact sheet is designed to be a starting point in your exploration of the world of cannabis oil—whether for fun, for profit, or for medicinal purposes.

### **What is cannabis oil?**

Cannabis oil is a resin-like complex of cannabinoids extracted from the cannabis plant using solvents. The resulting oil is highly concentrated and very rich in the chemical compounds that make cannabis plants unique.

Of the myriad cannabinoids that can be found in cannabis plants, two in particular stand out: THC and CBD.

#### **THC**

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the primary psychoactive component found in marijuana plants. When people talk about “getting high” with marijuana, they are describing the effects of THC.

Due to legal restrictions on the growth and use of marijuana, scientific and medical data is still emerging on the benefits and applications of THC, but current data shows significant promise.

#### **CBD**

CBD (cannabidiol) has the same chemical formula as THC, but atoms are arranged in a different pattern. The result is that while CBD and THC are very similar on a molecular level, their effects on the human body are quite different.

CBD doesn’t produce a “high” effect, and it is much more plentiful in cannabis plants. Although the body of scientific knowledge on the matter is still growing, it is generally agreed that CBD is safer and has less of a potentially detrimental long-term impact than THC.

### **What is cannabis oil used for?**

Cannabis oil has a variety of uses that stem from the variety of effects produced from the application of cannabinoids.

Cannabis oil with a high THC content can be used recreationally. Methods of use include inhaling the vapors of a small amount of heated oil (known as “dabbing”) or mixing the oil into foods and ingesting the resulting mixture.

There is also evidence to suggest that THC has significant medical applications, and as a result, cannabis oil with a high concentration of THC has been used medicinally to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy, to suppress pain and reduce the effects of motor loss associated with multiple sclerosis, to mitigate the symptoms of glaucoma, and to treat general chronic pain.

Cannabis oil high in CBD, however, has different effects and therefore different applications. CBD does not produce a strong psychoactive effect in the form of a “high.” As a result, it is a poor candidate for recreational use.

CBD oil is often used medicinally; its applications include use as a sleep aid and an anti-inflammatory and treatment of the symptoms of depression, schizophrenia, social anxiety disorder, and other psychotic conditions.

### **Is cannabis oil illegal?**

The laws surrounding cannabis plants and cannabis products are complicated and can differ wildly based on where in the country you are attempting to purchase, produce, or consume cannabis oil.

The primary factors that determine whether cannabis oil is legal or illegal are what part of the plant the oil is produced from and the statutes that govern how that plant can be grown.

## **HEMP CBD OIL**

In the case of CBD oil produced from industrial hemp, legality is strictly dependent on the part of the plant that was used. Hemp CBD oil must be sourced from the stalks and not the leaves. Most legislation restricts the use of hemp plant leaves due to the levels of THC they contain, but exempts the stalks due to the virtual nonexistence of THC within them.

To further complicate the matter, farmers are prohibited from growing hemp within the United States commercially. Therefore, all CBD oil must be produced from the stalks of low-THC hemp that has been imported. No products derived from hemp leaves or flowers are legal.

## **MEDICAL MARIJUANA CBD OIL**

Medical marijuana is cultivated to be rich in CBD; however, unlike hemp plants, medical marijuana plants may have varying levels of THC.

As a result, this further muddies the legal status of CBD oil derived from medical marijuana plants. Due to differences in state legislation, such oil may be prohibited outright. It may be legal for medicinal purposes only with tight restriction and may only be available with a prescription.

# **Can I make my own cannabis oil?**

Yes, producing cannabis oil at home is not difficult; however, it does require the use of solvents such as butane, or, alternatively, very high-proof alcohol. In both cases, it is necessary to heat mixtures and work with open flames alongside flammable solvents.

When making cannabis oil at home, be conscious of the following:

1. State or local laws may prohibit the production, sale, or consumption of cannabis oil based on the source of your ingredients. Always be aware of the legal ramifications of your actions.
2. The production of cannabis oil requires safe handling procedures concerning the use and heating of solvents or high-proof alcohol. **Exercise caution when producing cannabis oil at home, and understand that a failure to follow safety protocol can result in property damage, injury, or loss of life.**