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# Email Alert

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Updating you about current events in the battle against addictions

## Kids Getting High Off Mothballs

### *Household Items Readily Accessible To Children*

Some children are looking for unusual ways to get high, and they're finding what they need right in their own homes.

Children are not only sniffing things like spray paints and other aerosols, but there's a new trend in mothballs.

Elisabeth Tullis, a therapist with Family Centers in Darien, said part of the problem is parents don't realize mothballs are being used by kids, and they also don't realize how young some are.

"They can chew on the mothballs, they can also inhale them from a bag," she explained. "Usually, we are looking at ninth- through 12th-graders. In inhalants, we are looking at kids in the fourth grade."

Mothballs are toxic and dangerous. Two young French girls had to be hospitalized after they were "bagging" -- inhaling mothball fumes from a bag.

Experts said the high is short-lived, making it easy for kids because it wears off quickly. Another reason kids are using mothballs is because they are accessible, easy to find and are in many homes.

Channel 3 Eyewitness News reporter Susan Raff reported mothballs comprise just one of many household items kids are misusing. An Enfield student had a seizure after inhaling Axe, a body spray deodorant. Getting high on aerosol cans is called huffing. Therapists like Tullis said mothballs and inhalants are considered entry drugs and can push kids to try narcotics like cocaine and heroin. She said knowing your child is the best way to keep them safe.

"Be aware if your child is unusually stimulated or depressed, if they are dizzy or if you take them to the doctor and they are seeing signs of anemia, or lethargy, or difficulty with muscle control. These are all signs something is wrong with your child," Tullis said.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/10331507/detail.html>

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