



WHAT DOES MARIJUANA  
LOOK LIKE IN 2020?

MARIJUANA COMES IN A VARIETY OF  
FORMS, DEPENDING ON THE HARVESTING  
AND PROCESSING OF THE PLANT.





## FLOWER OR BUD MARIJUANA

This basic form of marijuana has changed a lot over the last 20 years. The average THC concentration in marijuana samples from 20 years ago was about 4%. Samples from recent years show average THC concentrations of about 12%.

That means that a person who smokes marijuana today is getting **three times as much of the psychoactive component** compared to a smoker from 20 years ago.

# KIEF AND HASH

## *Kief*

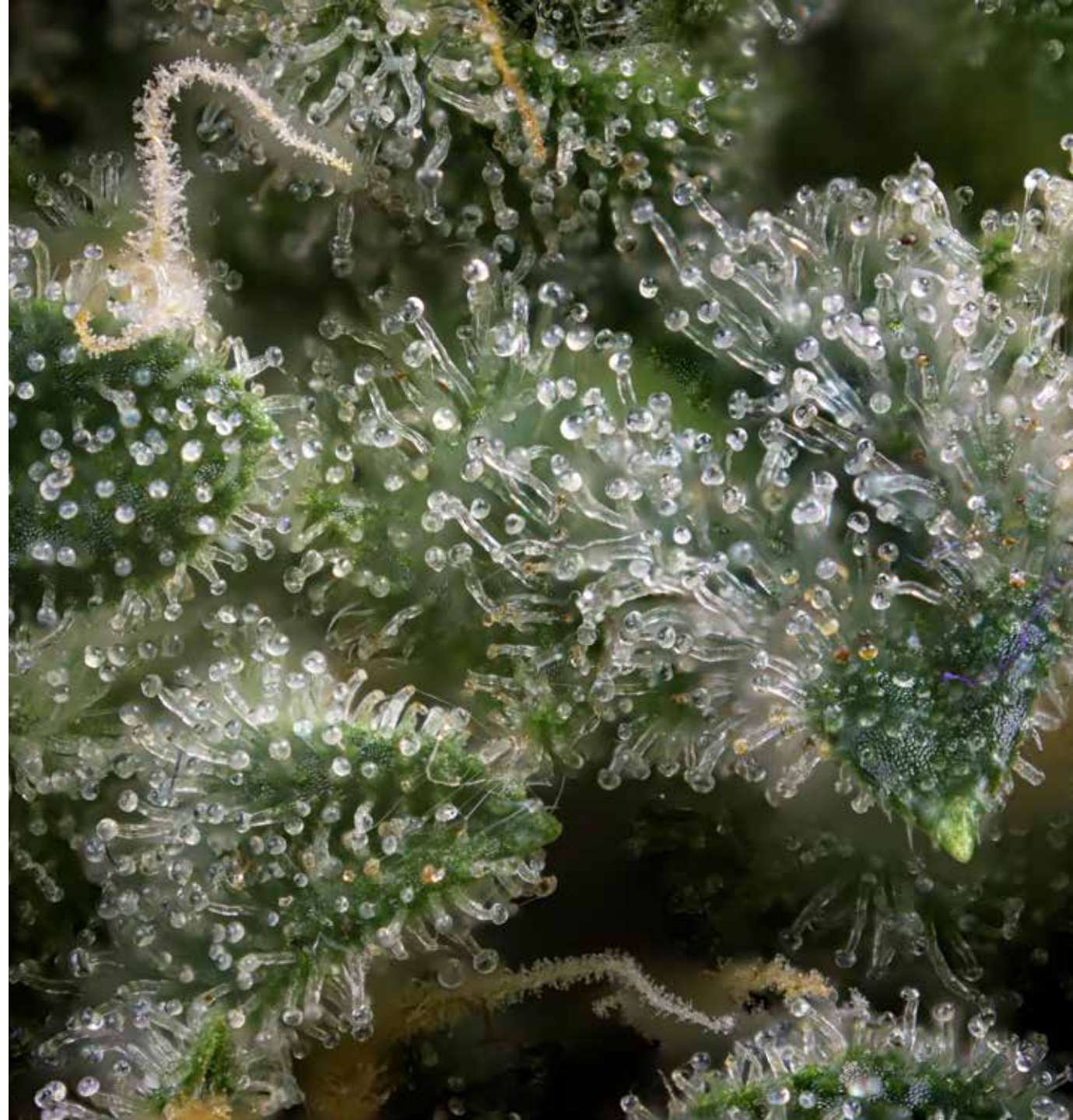
The trichomes of a marijuana plant contain a higher percentage of THC than the rest of the plant. The trichomes are the small, white balls on tips of the leaves.

Kief is formed by grinding, filtering, and sifting out the trichomes.

A bud which includes the trichomes can be up to 20% THC. After filtering out the rest of the plant, the **kief contains 50%-60% THC**.

## *Hash*

Hash is a resin cake or ball formed out of pressed kief. To make hashish, the ground-up, dried leaves are sifted through a screen and the powder resin is pressed to make a brick.





### *What to look for:*

Users of kief may buy pre-ground kief or may grind it themselves. If they are grinding it, they will probably have a multi-level grinder.

DIY versions may look different than these examples, but whatever is used will have to have a fine mesh, as the trichomes are very small.

To smoke the kief or hash, a user can use a variety of options, such as a bong, vaping pen, or pipe.

### **Look for:**

- **Grinder**
- **DIY version w/fine mesh**
- **Vape pen and globe**
- **Bong**
- **Pipe**

## BUTANE HASH OIL

Butane hash oil is a potent form of cannabis concentrate. The name comes from the fact that butane is the solvent used to extract the oils from cannabis. Butane hash oil is commonly referred to as BHO or 710 (which is a reverse acronym for oil).

BHO comes in various consistencies, depending on the temperature, time, and agitation method used for processing. The various forms of BHO are called oil, shatter, wax, budder, crumble, or glass.

**Concentrates vary in percentage of THC, but can be as high as 90%.**

Oil is what we call the loosest consistency of butane hash oil. It's sticky and only a bit thicker than a liquid. Oil is the hardest to handle, so it's one of least popular forms of BHO.





Budder and wax are more common forms of BHO. They are somewhat sticky and generally handled with a tool and stored in a silicone container.

Shatter or glass is the purest form of BHO. It's not sticky so it can be handled without a tool, and it's usually a translucent, honey color. Shatter, as the name implies, will shatter if it is dropped.

Concentrates are usually ingested by either dabbing or vaping. Dabbing is when the concentrate is placed on a hot surface, which creates a vapor that is breathed in. When the surface (nail) is heated, toxic chemicals are released along with the marijuana vapor.

Vaping is similar to dabbing, but a vape pen is used. The vape pen houses a coil which is heated to create the same effect.



***What to look for:***

DIY dabbing or vaping can be done with a nail and a torch as well as some sort of rig which sends the vapor to the user.

The wand/dabber often looks very similar to a dental tool and is used to handle the BHO and put it onto the heated surface (the nail or the vape coil, etc...).



**Look for:**

- Silicone containers
- Dabbers (may look like dental tools)
- Butane torch/fuel canister
- Vape pen and globe







## MAKING CONCENTRATES

Making BHO in a home lab is dangerous but is done. There are two primary DIY methods.

### *Butane method*

Essentially, butane oil is filtered through dried marijuana buds or kief to create a liquid mixture of butane and marijuana. Then the butane is purged through evaporation.

Butane is highly flammable, which is the primary reason that this process is so dangerous. DIY processing also leaves neurotoxins behind when a bottle or pipe is used. It may also leave butane residue in the marijuana.

### Look for:

- Butane fuel canister
- Strainer
- Heating pad/dish
- Silicone container
- Dabber

## *Rosin method*

The rosin method is safer and probably less expensive. For the rosin method, dried buds or kief are placed in the fold of a piece of parchment paper. A hair straightener (with pressure applied by squeezing) is used to heat the marijuana, press it, and create the oil.

### Look for:

- Hair straightener
- Parchment paper
- Silicone container
- Dabber





## EDIBLES

Marijuana edibles are either homemade or commercially produced food products infused with THC extract.

There is **little to no THC flavor or odor**, and it is hard to know the concentration of the THC when they're homemade.

THC is processed differently when ingested in food, so there is a **delay of 1-3 hours before the effects are felt**. This can inadvertently cause a user who thinks it's just not working to consume too much.

## DANGER

While it is virtually impossible to overdose on marijuana due to the way that it is processed through the body, marijuana does cause quite a few psychological and physical effects.

Higher concentrations of THC result in more extreme reactions, including extreme paranoia, fainting or passing out, excited delirium, a feeling of being “frozen in time,” a sense of exiting the body, or a loss of reality.

Users experiencing these kinds of effects have done things like jump out of moving vehicles. An increase in ER visits has been seen in states where marijuana has been legalized.





## DETECTION

The newer forms of marijuana are challenging to detect:

1. Edibles do not have an odor. Concentrates, depending on the kind and how they are ingested may have **no odor or very little odor** that dissipates quickly.
2. Concentrates and edibles are **easier to physically hide**. A piece of parchment paper with concentrates folded into it can be hidden practically anywhere. Edibles look like any other kind of food.
3. Vaping pens for marijuana look very **similar to tobacco vaping pens** and again, there is no odor.

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