

Contacts

For more information or advice:

Alcohol and Drug Information Service

24 hour drug & alcohol counselling &
information service

9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (country toll free)

For police assistance

131 444

For emergencies (Ambulance or Police)

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INFORMATION ABOUT VOLATILE SUBSTANCE USE FOR TRAVELLERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Government of Western Australia
Drug and Alcohol Office



Australian Government

Volatile substance use in Western Australia

There is ongoing concern in the Goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia about the misuse of volatile substances, particularly when they are used by young people. Inhaling or 'sniffing' volatile substances is a dangerous practice and can be fatal.

You can provide a great service to the communities in these regions by limiting opportunities for the misuse of volatile substances.

What is volatile substance use?

Volatile substance use (VSU) is the inhaling or 'sniffing' of products that produce vapours or fumes which can cause the user to feel 'high' or intoxicated. It is also referred to as inhalant use or solvent use.

There are hundreds of products that can be inhaled, many of which can be found in the home or purchased at a wide range of retail outlets.

What products are volatile substances?

Volatile substances that can be used for the purpose of intoxication include:

Aerosols: deodorants, insect sprays, cooking oil sprays

Solvents: petrol, glues, all toluene based products, automotive and cleaning products

Gases: portable butane/propane cartridges used for camping stoves, cigarette lighter refills.

What can I do to prevent volatile substance misuse?

As a traveller in Western Australia, you may be carrying substances which can be used for the purpose of intoxication. In some towns and communities these may be stolen from vehicles or taken from wherever rubbish is disposed of, such as bins and rubbish tips. It is important that these substances are stored and transported securely, and disposed of in a responsible manner.

What you can do to minimise access to volatile substances

- Use Low Aromatic Fuel (LAF) that may be branded as Opal or Unleaded Low Aromatic where available.

Low aromatic fuel is a direct substitute for regular unleaded with an octane rating of 91 and can be mixed with regular 91 unleaded fuel already in your tank.

LAF has been specifically designed with very low levels of intoxicating compounds.

- Where possible, use aerosols with alternative propellants and non-solvent based products.
- Make sure you know what volatile substance products are in your possession and check them before you leave a town/community. If anything is missing, please report it to police.
- For local waste services see www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/findlocal/ or contact the local shire.
- Ensure unattended vehicles are locked at all times.
- Keep all volatile substance products and petrol powered equipment locked up and out of sight.