

## STREET NAMES

Poppers, Rush, TNT, Thrush, Jungle Juice, Ram & Kix

## CHEMICAL COMPOUND(s)

**Amyl nitrite** (*isoamyl nitrite, isopentyl nitrite*)  
(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>ONO

**Appearance:** *Transparent liquid*

**Butyl nitrite** CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>ONO

**Appearance:** *Oily liquid*

**Isobutyl nitrite** (2-methylpropyl nitrite)  
(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>ONO

**Appearance:** *Colorless liquid*

**Isopropyl nitrite** (2-propyl nitrite)  
(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHONO

**Appearance:** *Clear pale yellow oil*

**Pentyl nitrite** C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>

## SAFER USING TIPS

### INHALING

Inhale through your NOSE by holding the open bottle up to one nostril. Hold your other nostril closed with a finger on your other hand.

WASH your hands afterwards

- being careful NOT TO TOUCH THE BOTTLE TO YOUR SKIN.

(The mucous membrane inside your nostrils are very sensitive and alkyl nitrites can be corrosive to the skin.)

## SAFE DISPOSAL

The contents of 'Poppers' bottles can be corrosive to skin and the left over vapours flammable so take care when disposing.  
DO NOT pour down the sink or into drains.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS - What NOT to use it with

### OTHER VASODILATORS-

Poppers are vasodilators (*substances that dilate blood vessels*) and should never be mixed with other vasodilators.

Common vasodilators include **Viagra** (sildenafil), **Levitra** (vardenafil) and **Cialis** (tadalafil)

### METHAMPHETAMINES/AMPHETAMINES-

will increase the strain on the heart and put the body under excess stress.

### OTHER WARNINGS:

-If it comes into contact with skin, wash the area straight away with water to avoid a chemical burn.

-Isobutyl Nitrite is considered a carcinogen and should be avoided.

-The liquid is highly flammable, so avoid smoking or open flames when using poppers.

**-DO NOT DRINK POPPERS. EVER!**

### PLEASE NOTE:

Seek medical attention immediately if negative side effects are experienced.

## MORE INFO

This resource is designed to give a brief overview and it is recommended that you do further research. The following websites may provide you with useful information.

[www.hrvic.org.au/dancewize](http://www.hrvic.org.au/dancewize)

[www.bluelight.ru](http://www.bluelight.ru)

[www.erowid.org](http://www.erowid.org)

[www.dancesafe.org](http://www.dancesafe.org)

[www.bluebelly.org.au](http://www.bluebelly.org.au)

[www.tripproject.ca](http://www.tripproject.ca)

This POPPERS resource is produced by DanceWize®, a program of Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic)

**[www.hrvic.org.au](http://www.hrvic.org.au)**



## KNOW YOUR MIND, KNOW YOUR BODY, KNOW YOUR SUBSTANCE AND KNOW YOUR LIMITS!

This resource has been developed for party goers and people who are **already** using drugs.

The role of DanceWize is to provide factual, relevant and practical information to assist you to make informed choices about different drugs and to promote harm reduction, safer partying and safer drug use.

## DESCRIPTION

Poppers' are short lasting drugs which cause a headrush and muscle relaxation. They appear as liquids that produce a vapour that can be inhaled. Poppers are chemicals called alkyl nitrites. The first, amyl nitrite, was made in 1844 and was used to help relieve angina (chest pains). Widespread recreational use of amyl nitrite is thought to have started in the 1960s. After consequent restrictions on its production and use, various other related alkyl nitrites appeared. In Australia, four inhalable nitrites are controlled substances.

**They are:**

**Amyl Nitrite, Butyl Nitrite, Isoamyl Nitrite, and Isobutyl Nitrite.**

Poppers are usually found in the form of a liquid chemical sold in a small bottle. They dilate the blood vessels and allow more blood to get to the heart.

Amyl nitrite, in common with other alkyl nitrites, is a potent vasodilator, meaning that it dilates the blood vessels of the individual, allowing more blood to pass through and so lowering blood pressure. Alkyl nitrite functions as a source of nitric oxide, which signals relaxation of the involuntary muscles.

There are no withdrawal symptoms.

***\*Though often referred to as 'Amyl Nitrate', -Nitrate is a diesel fuel additive, and the two are completely different and should not be confused.***

In some countries, to evade anti-drug laws, poppers are labelled and/or packaged as room deodorizers, leather polish or tape head cleaner.

### DOSAGE TIPS

*Taking drugs is never without risk. Mentioned doses are based on the information available to DanceWize© and we can not give any guarantee of safety as the effects can vary greatly from one person to another.*

•Nitrites may affect people differently based on:



- A person's body weight
- General state of health
- Regular use of substance
- If taken in combination with other drugs including prescription medication
- The amount that is consumed
- Dose is determined by the depth and length of the inhalation.
- Bottle sizes range from 10ml to 30ml

### ADMINISTRATION

Poppers are an inhalant and is for inhalation ONLY.

The most common method of use is to hold an open bottle to your nose and breathe in hard.

**Poppers or Alkyl Nitrites including Amyl should NEVER be swallowed.**

Alkyl nitrites will burn the mouth and throat and can and WILL cause coma and/or death.

### DURATION

The strength and duration of effects depend largely on the dose taken, but they are quick acting and will generally last no more than a few minutes.

### EFFECTS

*The following is a list of possible effects, which may vary from person to person.*

#### Physical

- warm sensation
- relaxation of muscles
- increases heart rate
- light headedness
- dizziness
- blurred eye sight
- increased libido
- skin sensitivity
- increased body temp
- impaired/decreased coordination & muscle control

**TOTAL DURATION:** 1-5 minutes

**Onset:** 0-30 seconds

**Peak:** 30 seconds - 2 minutes

**Coming Down:** 1-3 minutes

### LONG TERM EFFECTS

Effects of long term use of these substances can result in a range of clinical conditions varying from mild allergic reactions to life threatening methaeglobinaemia (a blood disorder which can lead to inadequate oxygen supply to body tissue). Alkyl nitrites should be avoided by people who are anaemic, pregnant and those with a history of high blood pressure.

**Long term effects of Alkyl Nitrates include:**

- Skin lesions
- Dermatological problems particularly around the nose, mouth, lips and face
- Increased intraocular (eye) pressure (risky for people with underlying glaucoma)

### Emotional

- euphoria
- increased sensual awareness
- visual distortions
- excitement that usually lasts for a couple of minutes

*Can cause headaches, nose bleeds, & rash around nose & mouth with extended use.*

**Overdose symptoms include nausea, emesis (vomiting), hypotension, hypoventilation, dyspnea (shortness of breath), and syncope (fainting)**