

# Understanding Cannabinoids



## Your Guide to Cannabis Compounds

Cannabis contains over 100 active chemical compounds called cannabinoids. Phytocannabinoids are the naturally occurring chemical compounds found mainly in cannabis that bind to receptors in the body's endocannabinoid system, influencing a variety of physiological processes like mood, appetite, pain, and memory.

The most widely known and studied cannabinoids are tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, also known as Delta-9-THC) and cannabidiol (CBD), but there are many other cannabinoids you may not know about, such as: THCA, THCV, CBDA, CBG, CBN, Delta 8-THC, and Delta-10-THC.

Cannabis product labels in Massachusetts are required to include the cannabinoid profile (i.e. the THC and CBD make-up) of each product, with specific percentages determined from testing.

### THC

#### Tetrahydrocannabinol

THC is responsible for the 'high' that many people experience when using cannabis. It can produce a sense of euphoria or intense happiness but has the most potential for misuse.

### THCA

#### Tetrahydrocannabinolic Acid

THCA is the acidic form of THC, which transforms into THC through a process called decarboxylation, usually through heat application or aging.

### THCV

#### Tetrahydrocannabivarin

THCV is similar to THC but has unique effects, such as appetite suppression, energizing effects, and potential medical benefits like helping to regulate blood sugar levels and insulin production.

### CBD

#### Cannabidiol

CBD is non-psychoactive. It can change how the body feels pain and responds to inflammation from an injury or a health problem while also creating a feeling of relaxation.

### CBDA

#### Cannabidiolic Acid

CBDA is the raw, acidic form of CBD. It doesn't produce the same effects as CBD until it undergoes decarboxylation.

### CBG

#### Cannabigerol

CBG is often referred to as the "mother cannabinoid" because it is the precursor to several other cannabinoids, including THC, CBD, CBC, and CBN.

### CBN

#### Cannabinol

CBN is a mildly psychoactive cannabinoid that is created when THC breaks down over time. This process happens as cannabis ages or when THC is exposed to heat or oxygen.

### Delta-8-THC

#### Tetrahydrocannabinol

Delta-8-THC is less potent and often produces milder effects. Delta-8-THC is typically manufactured through a chemical process to concentrate it from CBD.

### Delta-10-THC

#### Tetrahydrocannabinol

Delta-10-THC is synthetically derived in most cases. It is typically created by manipulating CBD (cannabidiol) extracted from hemp through a process called isomerization.



Serious reaction?  
Call 911



Poison Control Hotline  
800-222-1222



Pet Poison Hotline  
855-764-7661

Learn more at [MoreAboutMJ.org](http://MoreAboutMJ.org)

If you or someone you know needs help with a cannabis or other drug problem, call the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline at 800-327-5050.

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