

KETAMINE: PREPARING THE POWDERED VERSION FOR INJECTING

Although many people who are going to inject ketamine might source medicinal ketamine to do so, some people might inject the powdered form by breaking it down first into a liquid. ***If someone is going to inject ketamine, try and encourage them to source the injectable medicinal type rather than powdered forms.***

Considerations

- ❑ Powdered ketamine bought outside of medical channels is not sterile and may contain dangerous contaminants (e.g. benzodiazepines, synthetic opioids, or other cutting agents).
- ❑ Injecting non-pharmaceutical ketamine puts someone at risk of infection, abscesses, collapsed veins, vein damage, sepsis, and even death—especially if the dose is miscalculated or the drug is contaminated.
- ❑ There is no way to visually identify purity, strength, or additives in powdered ketamine.
- ❑ Always encourage people to access needle exchange services, drug checking, and safer use education wherever possible.

Step-by-Step: What People *Might* Do to Prepare Powdered Ketamine for Injection: Ketamine is already water-soluble, typically as a hydrochloride salt (ketamine HCl). This means it dissolves easily in sterile water without needing an acidifier like citric acid.

1. Measuring the Dose

- ❑ Users typically measure a certain milligram amount (e.g. 50–100mg), often using a scale.
- ❑ Dosing by eye (“eyeballing”) is high-risk and often inaccurate.

2. Dissolving the Powder

- ❑ Users may mix the powder with sterile water for injection (or bacteriostatic water).
- ❑ Tap water, bottled water, or boiled water should never be used due to bacterial contamination risks.
- ❑ The powder is placed into a sterile spoon or cooker with water added—e.g. 1ml of water per 100mg powder, depending on the desired concentration.

3. Heating (Optional)

- ❑ Some users gently heat the mixture to help dissolve it, but this increases risk of contamination if not done with sterile equipment.
- ❑ Heating is not always necessary if the powder dissolves readily.

4. Filtering

- ❑ The solution is drawn up through a wheel filter (ideally 0.22 micron), or in low-resource settings, through sterile cotton or cigarette filters—though this is less safe.
- ❑ Filtering helps remove undissolved particles and some contaminants.