



This resource was adapted from [Common Cuts and Buffs found in drugs using FTIR](#) from the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU). For more information, please visit streetcheck.org or email madds@brandeis.edu.

Common Inactive Cuts Found in Opioids & Stimulants Using FTIR

| Substance | What is it? | What does it do? |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Dicalcium Phosphate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Substance commonly used as a component in food, vitamins, and pharmaceutical tablets. - Can be safely consumed in moderate amounts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ingestion of large quantities may cause abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. |
| Inositol (sugar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of sugar that naturally occurs in fruits, beans, grains, and nuts. - Considered a pseudovitamin and may cause nausea when ingested in high doses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugars are used to bulk out a product to add weight (they are buffs). - Sugars also dissolve easily and none are known to be harmful at normal amounts. |
| Lactose (sugar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used as a pill filler and naturally occurring sugar in the milk of most mammals. - Generally considered safe to consume and non-toxic. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugars are used to bulk out a product to add weight (they are buffs). - Sugars also dissolve easily and none are known to be harmful at normal amounts. |
| Mannitol (sugar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural sweetener found in fruits and vegetables and used in diabetic-friendly foods. - Rapidly excreted in urine when injected or taken orally and may cause mild dehydration when taken in high amounts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugars are used to bulk out a product to add weight (they are buffs). - Sugars also dissolve easily and none are known to be harmful at normal amounts. |
| Sucrose (sugar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of sugar that is commonly used as a bulking agent, particularly in cocaine. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sugars are used to bulk out a product to add weight (they are buffs). - Sugars also dissolve easily and none are known to be harmful at normal amounts. |
| Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical that occurs naturally in humans, some green plants, and animals but can be lab made. - Common cut of methamphetamine found in powder and crystal forms. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissolves easily, not known to be harmful to humans or animals. - May be helpful in pain relief and tissue regeneration. |
| Microcrystalline Cellulose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common filler in pills obtained from purified plant material (wood pulp). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally nontoxic, but acts as a dietary fiber and when ingested in high doses may harm the digestive system interfering with nutrient absorption. |
| Niacinamide (Vitamin B3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A form of vitamin B3, a water soluble vitamin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cases of liver toxicity are reported with use. - Can cause stomach upset, gas, dizziness, headache, and rash. |
| Flour/Starch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common bulking agents, particularly in cocaine. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not harmful and minimal risks associated. |
| Vitamin C (Ascorbic Acid) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naturally produced in fruits and vegetables. - Commonly used to treat and prevent the common cold and several infections. - Generally nontoxic, but may cause nausea, headaches, stomach cramps, and kidney stones. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given away at harm reduction agencies and therefore has been seen as an adulterant in opioids. - Commonly used to help substances dissolve for injection. |