



# The Ultimate Guide to Concentrates

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EXCERPTED FROM

**Budtender Basics Certification**  
by  
THC University



# What are concentrates?

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In the early 2000's, hash artisans discovered a new way of separating the trichomes from the cannabis plant. They started using chemical solvents which basically lessened the labor put into creating hash and found the resulting product to be much stronger than the manually stripped processes.

This hand-separated hash is much more concentrated with potency levels of up to 90%. Hence dubbed concentrates.

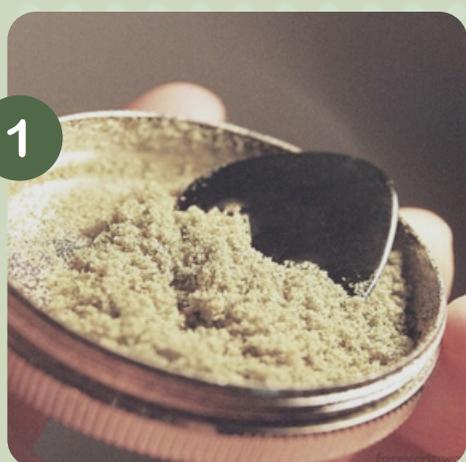
The goal of concentrates is to extract the resin glands from the plant matter and get rid of all the other parts. The product solution (from mixing the plant with a solvent) is typically strained and purged to get rid of all plant matter and any remnants of dangerous solvent left in the solution.



## Various forms of concentrates



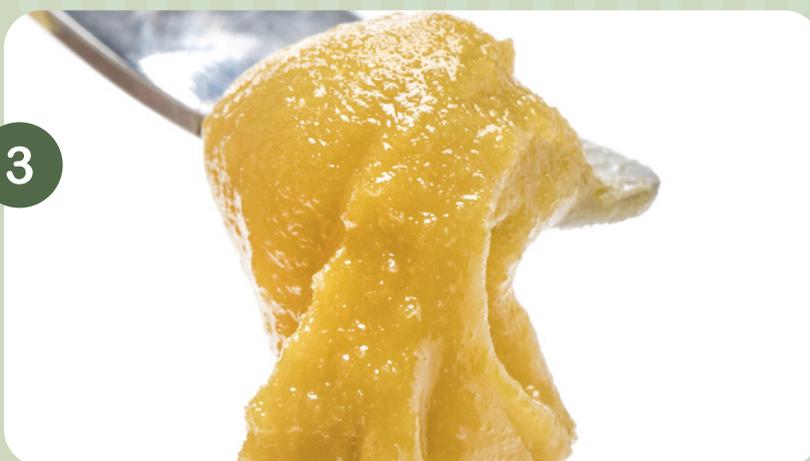
In this guide, we will go through each form of concentrate and how to discuss them with your customers. The forms are differentiated in two ways: the method of processing and the source material (i.e., whole flower buds versus trim and stems). Slangs and nicknames will differ in various regions, which can create some confusion.



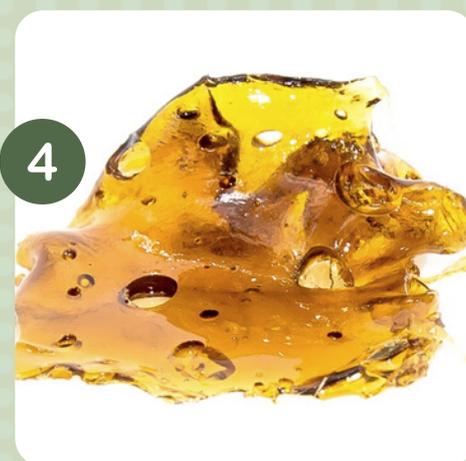
**KIEF**



**BUBBLE HASH**



**BUDDER**



**SHATTER**



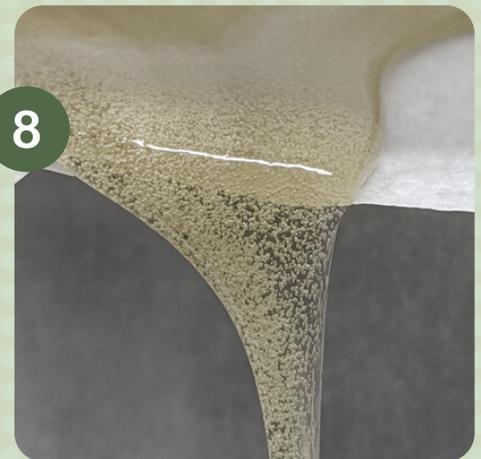
CRUMBLE WAX



CO2 EXTRACTED  
CONCENTRATE



LIVE RESIN



ROSIN

Images from Leafly & Weedmaps

# 01

## Kief



### DESCRIPTION

When trichomes are gathered from sifting dry plant matter using a sieve or a screen, the result is a kief. Although, it is not considered a “true hash” since it still contains a considerable amount of plant matter. But there is a finer form of kief that is re-sifted in a much proper screen called a sieve.

Better consumed through vaporization since it burns at a much faster rate than flower and is aromatic with color in the shades of white, green, or yellow, sometimes even a combination of the three depending on the flower from which it originated.

### HOW TO CONSUME

When starting out with kief, use it like you would sprinkles on a bowl of ice cream.

### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

When trying out hash for the first time, kief is a good place to start since it is considered as the weakest (form of concentrate). Also, this is good for medical marijuana patients who wants to experience a stronger dose containing less plant material.



# 02

## Bubble Hash



### DESCRIPTION

A classic method of consumption between the 1960's and 1970's, bubble hash is product of extraction via ice water and one of safest form of hash. Popularized by Matt Rize, this form of extraction washes the trichome heads off the plant matter without the use of harmful solvents (absorbs the trichomes) which produces a much cleaner product.

The procedure requires the use of 'bubble bags' where the raw cannabis is placed then immersed in a bucket of ice water and stirred efficiently. This lets the trichomes fall into the screen (found in the bottom of the bags) along with bits of plant matter. The collected substance (of trichomes and plant matter) are pressed together and then set to dry.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Can be smoked by itself or in a bowl with some herbs mixed in it. Or use it as a topping or mixed with flower. You can layer a bowl with this taffy-like hash in a small and thin spread, and if it is notably dry and hard, you can scrape bits of it using a knife and add this to a bowl.

### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

This is a preference in terms of consumption especially for health conscious users because of the absence of solvents during its creation. In terms of potency, bubble hash is a step up from kief in strength since it is more concentrated

# 03

## Budder



### DESCRIPTION

When extracts go through nucleation (a chemical reaction that goes through condensation at a molecular level), the resulting substance is budder. This contains about 70% of THC and goes through one extraction process (butane hash oil extraction or BHO) compared to its counterpart (shatter) which usually goes through a second extraction.

Also referred to as "super melt", budder has a crumbly texture and is yellowish in color. Still containing most of the terpenes in marijuana, its hits are the same in terms of taste and smell as that of a cannabis flower.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Mostly consumed via dabbing but also can be smoked in a bowl of flower.

### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

It is important to note that acquiring such substances should be a careful process. The product should be tested by the source so they could show a safe to consume substance with low to no residual solvents. This is recommended only for experienced users with high tolerance. But first, they need to understand how the substance will affect them before taking a hit.



# 04

## Shatter



### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

Make sure that you explain to customers who plan to use this product for the first time that shatter is very concentrated (containing up to 80% of THC) so they should take it slow and use tiny amounts until they are used to its potency and have figured out the right dosage for themselves. It is also best to remind them that since shatter goes through a purification process that removes the terpenes from the product, this also removes the taste and smell that they usually experience when using cannabis.

### DESCRIPTION

Also called “amberglass” or “sexy oil”, shatter is a variation of budder (applied BHO as the extraction process) that goes through a second extraction process that removes fats, lipids, and terpenes. The process in producing this concentrate includes skillfully purging the butane and cannabis solution. Also involves freezing cold alcohol (called winterization) in removing the wax from the cannabinoids.

Difficult to make compared to wax, the creation of shatter is considered an art form with a whole lot of possibilities. This is because cannabis flowers produce trichomes with characteristics that are a little different from other variety types.

The finish product is glassy in nature and is sticky as superglue which is why most people freeze it to make it easier to handle. This glass like consistency makes it fragile that when dropped, the product ‘shatters’, hence the name.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Usually vaped but also dabbled.

# 05

## Crumble Wax



### DESCRIPTION

like budder and shatter, crumble goes through a similar extraction process but with a different feel in oil used before the purging. To create that cheese-like appearance, the oil used would contain more moisture and with a thicker consistency.

One way to retain the terpenes and get a better-tasting concentrate is to purge the substance longer and at low heat.

### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

This concentrate is very potent and has a very strong and immediate effect which makes it beneficial to users who have developed high tolerances or for patients who are experiencing sudden symptoms and needs fast relief. The ways to consume is on a case to case basis though because dabbing gives you a faster hit than with smoking so when a medical marijuana patient is experiencing severe symptoms, dabbing the substance is best than smoking it which would take a couple of minutes to get the desired effect.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Its loose structure makes it hard for it to be consumed through dabbing but not impossible (like budder and shatter, dabbing is still a good way to consume this concentrate). The ways to consume can be case to case as dabbing delivers the effects faster than smoking. For instance, if a medical marijuana patient is experiencing severe symptoms, dabbing the substance would be more beneficial than smoking as the desired effects would manifest within a couple of minutes.

# 06

## CO2 Extracted Concentrate



### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

this substance is preferred by a lot of users because it contains zero residual solvents and is non-inflammable which makes it safer to use and a much healthier alternative than other solvent-based concentrates.

The oil is considered more pure when it is lighter in color. The darker (or greener) the color, the less pure the oil because this shade is achieved when there's a lot of residual chlorophyll. Oil in the shade of Amber is better but the best and considered to be of the highest quality is honey-colored (golden) oil.

### DESCRIPTION

Basically has the same extraction process of other concentrates with the main difference of the compound used. With the other concentrates, certain solvents such as propane and butane are used to blast through the cannabis but with this type of concentrate, Carbon Dioxide (CO2) replaces the role of these solvents.

In terms of popularity, CO2 can only come second at best because the use of the other solvents (butane, propane, etc...) is much cheaper option.

The downside is that CO2 bonds successfully with pesticides and fungicides than they do with cannabinoids which makes it risky to use cannabis that are grown with the help of this harmful chemicals. Organically grown cannabis is best when using CO2.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Smoked on top of flower and not usually dabbed because of its viscosity. Consumed via edibles and also used to refill vape pen cartridges.

# 07

## Live Resin



### DESCRIPTION

Has the same extraction methods used by the ones listed before it with the main difference being the state of the plant used in the extraction processes. The usual is using dried trim or cured buds but with Live Resin, frozen (cryogenically right after harvest) plants are used which preserves the oil, cannabinoids and terpenes (plant material that are usually lost during the curing and aging processes) giving the concentrate a much more intense and unique smells and taste than the other waxes and oils produced traditionally.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Live Resin can be dabbed, vaporized, or smoked in a bowl. To maintain the flavor (terpenes), it is recommended that Live Resin be vaped or dabbed at lowest possible temperature.

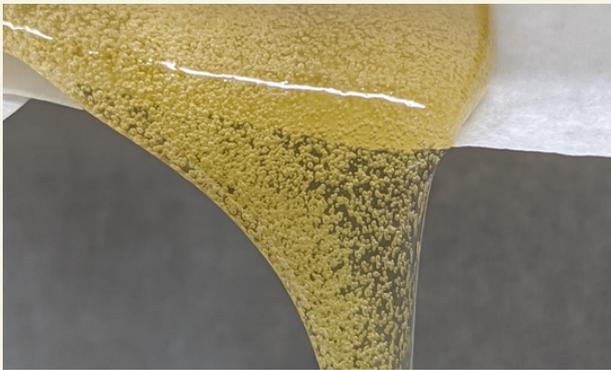
### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

Has a similar potency to high grade wax and shatters that ranges from 70% to 90% THC. Recommended to those with high tolerance only.

This is proof of the "Entourage Effect" or the Whole Plant Effect theory which basically proposes that some cannabis compounds have no impact when used in isolation but create an experience when combined with other compounds. In this case, cannabinoids and terpenes when combined, produce a stronger and diverse effect.

# 08

## Rosin



### DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMERS

Rosin is a great alternative for customers who prefer or is prescribed to dab and wants to use a less harmful concentrate when dabbled since it is solventless. It is as clean and pure as bubble hash but processed to a more potent concentrate. But due to its production that requires a large workforce (manual labor) when created commercially and of the product's low return, commercially processed rosin is expensive and hard to find. But as mentioned, you can produce yourself in your own home using the technique mentioned.

### DESCRIPTION

Rosin's popularity has increased quickly from the underground scene probably because of its simplicity and production time (in a matter of seconds). With a few easy to procure materials (some nugs, parchment paper, and a hair straightener), you can create rosin from your home.

With the heat from the hair straightener and the pressure used to push the resins out of the buds and into the parchment paper, a pool of THC oil is created. This oil dries a little bit in a matter of seconds forming a sticky sap that can then be used to dab instantly.

A much purer concentrate with a white or light color and a 100% solvent-free.

### HOW TO CONSUME

Dabbing



THE POWER OF THE PLANT  
IS ASTONISHING, YET  
THERE IS SO MUCH YET TO  
BE DISCOVERED.

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