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CBD and Cannabis Glossary

30 terms you will come across on labels and in product descriptions

Labels and descriptions of CBD products are full of abbreviations and technical terms. This glossary explains them briefly and clearly so you know what you are buying.

Cannabinoids

Term	Explanation
Cannabinoids	a group of compounds found naturally in cannabis. More than a hundred are known.
CBD (cannabidiol)	the best-known cannabinoid in industrial hemp. It is not intoxicating.
CBDA	the acidic form of CBD, in which CBD occurs in the fresh plant.
THC (Δ9-tetrahydrocannabinol)	an intoxicating cannabinoid. Its content in products is limited by law.
THCA	the acidic form of THC in the fresh plant. Heating converts it into THC.
CBG (cannabigerol)	the cannabinoid from which the plant produces other cannabinoids.
CBN (cannabinol)	a cannabinoid formed as THC ages and oxidises.
CBC (cannabichromene)	a lesser-known cannabinoid, often listed in extended analyses.
Decarboxylation	heating that converts the acidic forms (CBDA, THCA) into the neutral ones (CBD, THC).
Endocannabinoid system	a system of receptors and compounds in the human body to which cannabinoids relate. A subject of scientific research.

Types of extracts and products

Term	Explanation
Full spectrum	an extract with the full spectrum of plant compounds: CBD, other cannabinoids, terpenes and trace amounts of THC within the legal limit.
Broad spectrum	an extract with several cannabinoids and terpenes from which THC has been removed below the limit of quantification.
Isolate	pure CBD (usually 99 % or more) in crystal form, without other plant compounds.
Distillate	a refined extract with a high cannabinoid content, lighter in colour and free of chlorophyll.
Raw extract	an extract made without heating, containing mainly CBDA.
Carrier oil	the oil in which the extract is dissolved, for example hemp seed oil, olive oil or MCT oil.
MCT oil	an oil with medium-chain fatty acids, usually from coconut. It is tasteless and mixes well.
Hemp seed oil	oil pressed from hemp seeds. It contains cannabinoids only in trace amounts.

Term	Explanation
Industrial hemp	cannabis varieties with a low THC content grown for fibre, seeds and extracts.

Production and quality

Term	Explanation
CO_2 extraction	extraction with pressurised carbon dioxide. It leaves no solvent residues.
Ethanol extraction	extraction with alcohol, which is then evaporated. Quality is verified by a residual solvent test.
Winterisation	freezing out waxes and fats from the extract.
COA	certificate of analysis, a laboratory report on the analysis of a specific batch.
Batch	a production run with a common number. A certificate always applies to a specific batch.
HPLC	liquid chromatography, the standard method for measuring cannabinoids.
ND, LOQ	not detected, limit of quantification. See the guide “How to Read a Certificate of Analysis”.

Aroma and other terms

Term	Explanation
Terpenes	aromatic plant compounds that give cannabis, citrus fruit or pine needles their typical scent.
Flavonoids	plant pigments and compounds that affect colour and taste.
Trichomes	tiny glandular hairs on the flowers in which the plant produces cannabinoids and terpenes.
Novel food	a food that was not consumed to a significant degree in the EU before 15 May 1997. It must be authorised.

The glossary explains terms. It does not describe the effects of products and contains no health claims.
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