
Herba Re-Leaf

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To our Herba Family- long time, new and prospective,

At Herba Re-Leaf, we have always prioritized the health and well-being of our customers by providing high-quality, natural kratom products. We are committed to offering extracts that preserve the natural integrity of the plant, ensuring that every product is tested and safe, effective, and aligned with our vision of sustainability and purity. We are also dedicated to using nothing but green, foodsafe ingredients in the products we offer that are developed beyond the raw version of the plants we love and strive to keep accessible to this amazing community.

Over the years, we have seen many threats to the botanical community, both domestic and international. While the threats have typically come from outside the botanical community, the current one we are facing is one that grew from within. We are sure that many of you have seen new products on the market, claiming to be “kratom products,” but the truth is, these items are not kratom, and are NOT a natural or safe choice.

7-hydroxymitragynine (commonly referred to as 7-oh, or 7 in the quoted material) is, in its natural form, a compound found in very small amounts in the kratom plant, formed when mitragynine is oxidized during the drying process. Natural concentrations of this compound range from .1-.2% by weight, a percentage that is very small in the grand scheme of things. These new products are boasting concentrations from 200-4000x those natural amounts, and as such, the 7-oh in these products is NOT a natural compound- it is synthetically created in various ways to reach such high, unnatural amounts. Unsafe chemicals, sometimes even research chemicals, are used to achieve this forced synthesization, and these levels achieved have not ever been tested in living subjects, human or otherwise, for long term use.

We try our best to stay updated on the active research that pertains to the kratom community so that we have concrete, science backed information to not only reference when making decisions about how we do things as a company, but also to present to you as consumers. We believe everyone has a right to make their own informed decisions, so we wanted to outline just a few snippets from pertinent studies from the academic community regarding the matter.

- Animals were dosed orally with 50 mg/kg of 7-hydroxymitragynine which did not result in death, however, at that dose, the authors reported severe respiratory depression and seizures, indicating that the compound was approaching a lethal threshold (L. C. Smith et al., 2019). Products with high levels of 7-hydroxymitragynine (7) are synthetically altered with no safety data

to support their use. **At human equivalent doses of 285 mg, 7 caused severe respiratory depression in mice similar to traditional opioids.**

- Single-dose studies on kratom leaf in humans have shown that even at high doses, side effects are mild (Reissig, 2024). While in mice, one study administering 1000 mg/kg of kratom tea reported only modest, transient respiratory depression (Wilson et al., 2020).
- The absence of 7-hydroxymitragynine and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl in native kratom leaf material means that a product that contains high amounts of these compounds would reflect a product that is an isolated, purified, or semi-synthetically generated form of 7-hydroxymitragynine and/or mitragynine pseudoindoxyl. Such products should not be scientifically considered or commercially categorized as kratom or as a kratom product. Companies making claims that such products are “kratom products” should not be considered to be making credible or factual claims. (Grundmann, McCurdy, Sharma, Smith, 2024).

The last bullet above is pulled from a recent study led by Dr. Christopher McCurdy, Ph.D., FAAPS, who is a professor of medicinal chemistry, and one of the world's foremost experts on kratom. He has led extensive research on kratom and the active compounds found within. The results of his work as it pertains to 7-oh are alarming when considering these items have been placed on the shelves of many shops already, making them readily available to the public.

At the end of the day, it has become clear to us that not only is 7-oh a threat to the safety of our botanical family themselves, but also to the overall **legality of kratom itself**. Dangerous products like these are a direct and looming risk to the ongoing availability of kratom in general- even though these products at their core ARE NOT KRATOM.

We wanted to take this opportunity to take a firm stance on the matter as a company that truly cares about their customers, and do our best to warn you all while shedding light on the details that these companies have taken so much care to keep from the public eye. Their calculated and misleading marketing techniques are among the troublesome aspects of these companies, and we are officially taking a stance against any and all 7-oh isolates and products with synthesized, high concentrations of this compound.

We have never expected our customers to strictly source their botanical products from Herba Re-Leaf, and have always encouraged and fostered an environment in which kratom vendors work together to provide a safe, reliable and competitive marketplace for the good people who choose to spend their hard earned money on those botanicals. But we firmly believe that 7-oh is a detriment to the kratom community at large, and a looming threat for more than one reason.

Very Sincerely,

Cory & Austin, and the rest of the Herba Re-leaf team 