



Sleep and stress disorders, Covid anxiety, chronic pain? Our full spectrum CBD contains CBDA and CBDGA which may help in the prevention of Covid* symptoms.

Writer: Bill Cox

At Rocketman, we get it and may be able to help. Yes, we're stuck with Florida's medical marijuana laws, which are intrusive and expensive. And nobody knows how long it'll take for Floridians to enjoy legalized recreational weed the way residents of 18 states already do.

Without a medical card, you can still get arrested, thrown in jail, and fined for simple possession, depending on police zeal for enforcing local ordinances. Even with a Florida medical card, gun owners who take up are forced to lie or risk felony prosecution every time they fill out a Form 4473 for firearms purchases.

Working people who admit to using cannabis? If you cop to ingesting marijuana and your employer receives federal funds, you can be terminated on the spot, thanks to obsolete Schedule 1 laws declaring falsely that weed has no medicinal value. Military veterans who prefer medicinal cannabis over legally prescribed and often addictive opioids that can damage internal organs? Sorry, the Department of Veterans Affairs leaves it up to individual providers to decide if you can be penalized for "willful misconduct."

That's why you need to visit Rocketman, locally owned and staffed by ex-military personnel. If you haven't been keeping up with the revolution in perfectly legal options from the science of THC, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

Delta-9, marijuana's psychoactive agent villainized by the Drug Enforcement Agency for more than half a century, is extracted from the marijuana plant. The cultivation of marijuana's visually indistinguishable cousin, hemp, was federally sanctioned by the Farm Bill of 2014, for lots of good reasons. Industrial fiber, protein, pain-relieving CBD – the hemp plant's myriad applications were approved because its delta-9 THC content peaks out at just 0.3 percent. Which means you could enjoy it all day, and you wouldn't get a buzz.

However: Over the past few years, thanks to innovations in extraction methods, entrepreneurs have been able to tease psychoactive levels of THC from hemp that are fast becoming a national rage. Mere molecules of separation from federally-controlled delta-9, hemp extracts of delta-8 and delta-10 will challenge even the most discriminating of long-time marijuana users to tell the difference. But don't take our word for it – come to Rocketman and see for yourself.

Rocketman has been in Sarasota since 1996. We're not a smoke shop, we're not a vape shop, we don't sell cigarettes or nicotine vape products.

Step inside and you'll find an old-school head shop that feels like you've entered a Woodstock time warp. Our Shops in Gulf Gate and Venice boast an inventory that rivals Florida's licensed medical dispensaries. Brimming with standard-issue freak-flag paraphernalia – woven blankets, ponchos, pouches, more than 150 incense aromas, purification herbs, Zig-Zag caps, Glass, Ceramic, acrylic and silicone pipes, tapestries saluting Bob Marley, the Grateful Dead, you name it – Rocketman is a licensed hemp retailer in full compliance with state and federal laws.

Rocketman's full spectrum CBD products contain CBDA and CBDGA, cannabinoids that may block cellular entry of SARS-CoV-2 and the Emerging Variants.

In regards to Rocketman's labeled hemp-derived THC, is where the choices can get a little overwhelming. But keep these two broad categories in mind: Delta-8 is similar to cannabis indica, regarded as a full-body relaxant, may be good for insomnia relief and mitigating anxiety; Delta-10, on the other hand, is renowned as the sativa of hemp, an invigorating "head high" that can boost motivation, creativity and focus. And, depending on your mood and ambition levels, there are hybrids of the two, some infused with the additional benefits of CBD.

How to indulge? Take your pick from our wide selection of inventory. Not sure what you're looking for, but don't want to spend a lot of money? Choose one-offs or packs. Don't have cash? No worries. Because hemp products are legal, Rocketman accepts credit cards.

Better yet, snowbirds from marijuana-legal states and local residents alike can find hemp THC a perfect work-around from Florida's clunky medical laws. No mandatory consultations with physicians who charge wildly divergent fees, no having to shell out \$75 to the state for a medical card. The state gets its due either way, placing a 7 percent sales tax on hemp (unlike zero sales tax on medical marijuana). Even so, our prices are significantly cheaper than what you'll pay for similar products at the medical dispensary.

Bear in mind: Like delta-9, hemp THC isn't for everybody. Some medical conditions can be exacerbated by cannabis. And no two customers are alike, so results will vary. Also: Rocketman doesn't sell to customers under 21. We don't ship products or handle online orders – sales are strictly over the counter. Furthermore: Hemp THC will likely show up in tests, so be mindful of that.

Quality control concerns? Hemp products at Rocketman are by far our most popular item for folks who want a good night's sleep – come with fully traceability accessible via the QR code on each package. "Sometimes people come in here and say, 'Oh, I've tried this before, it doesn't work for me,'" says Rocketman owner Sam Schneider. "I say, 'Where'd you get 'em?' They say, 'At the gas station,' and I'm like, well, there you go. There's a lot of junk out there."

So if you're new to the weed scene but don't want your curiosity to steer you outside the law, or if you're a veteran connoisseur and want to know what the delta-8/delta-10 fuss is all about, visit Rocketman and check it out. "It's a happy place," says Schneider. "People are in a good mood when they come in here."

Rocketman has two locations, at 2635 Mall Drive, Sarasota, (941-923-2096), and 1211 U.S. 41 Bypass in Venice (941-444-9324).

FDA DISCLAIMER: This product is not for use by or sale to persons under the age of 21. The statements made regarding these products have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. The efficacy of these products has not been confirmed by the FDA-approved research. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Please consult your health care professional about potential interactions or other possible complications before using any product. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act requires this notice.

*van Breemen RB, Muchiri RN, Bates TA, Weinstein JB, Leier HC, Farley S, Tafesse FG. Cannabinoids Block Cellular Entry of SARS-CoV-2 and the Emerging Variants. J Nat Prod. 2022 Jan 10. doi: 10.1021/acs.jnatprod.1c00946. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35007072.

