


Fentanyl Test Strips


Know what's in your drugs, prevent overdose


Fentanyl test strips can tell you if your drugs contain a deadly opioid called fentanyl or one of its relatives, like carfentanil. Fentanyl is added to drugs like heroin, meth, cocaine, and pills. You should use fentanyl test strips on ALL drugs, not just heroin.


These strips are not perfect – for example, they may miss certain relatives of fentanyl. You could still overdose even if the strip says there is no fentanyl.


How to use fentanyl test strips


 **Step 1. Add sterile water** (1/4 inch, about 5 ml or 10 drops) to your drug residue and mix well.


 If injecting, draw your shot into your syringe leaving some residue in your cooker (e.g., spoon can, lid). Add the water (i.e., rinse water) to the cooker and mix well.

 If snorting, leave some residue on the sides of the bag or surface you snort from if it can hold water. Add the water and mix well.

 If using pills, break a piece off and crush it or crush the whole pill in a container (e.g., bag, can, cup). Add the water and mix well.

 **Step 2. Test.** Hold the strip by the blue end. Dip it into the mixture up to the wavy lines (〰️), but not deeper than the first blue line (—). Hold it there for **15 seconds**.

 **Step 3. Wait.** Remove the strip from the mixture. Lay it on a clean surface. Wait one full minute (**60 seconds**) for it to process.

 **Step 4. Results.** If no line appears, something went wrong. Re-do the test.

 One red line (positive) = Fentanyl

 Two red lines (negative) = **No** fentanyl (“two thumbs up”, “two is better than one”)



How to reduce your overdose risk (from HarmReduction.org)

- **Take it slow and use less.** A little fentanyl goes a long way with fentanyl and overdoses can occur quickly. You can always go up, but you can't go down.
- **Try snorting or smoking instead of injecting.** Injecting carries the highest risk for overdose.
- **Space out doses.** Take time between doses because fentanyl acts fast and is different for everyone.
- **Be extra careful if using alone.** Try to not use alone or have someone check on you so they can help if you overdose. If you are going to use by yourself, call **1-800-484-3731** (NeverUseAlone.com).
- **In a group? Take turns.** Make sure someone is always alert and that someone has naloxone (Narcan).
- **Always carry naloxone (Narcan).** Find where to get it at [KyStopOverdoses.ky.gov](https://www.kystopoverdoses.ky.gov) or ask your local pharmacy.
- **Know the signs of an overdose.** Call 911 if you see someone overdose.
- **Listen to your body.** Health impacts overdose risk. Drink fluids, eat, and rest as much as possible.

By using fentanyl test strips, you accept all responsibility for any injury or death that could occur, whether the drugs have been tested, or not tested, for fentanyl. Fentanyl test strips are drug paraphernalia.