Fentanyl Test Strips

Fentanyl is now routinely mixed into heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and pressed into counterfeit pills. It can't be seen, smelled, or tasted. Most overdose deaths today involve fentanyl that the person didn't know was there.

Fentanyl test strips detect fentanyl in a sample within minutes. They cost about a dollar each and are often free through harm reduction organizations.

Testing can lower the risk of a fatal overdose, but it doesn't make drug use safe. The information in this pamphlet is meant to reduce harm while a person is still using, and to make clear that lasting safety comes from getting help.

A PUBLICATION OF

DRS
Let our family save yours

SHARE • EDUCATE • SAVE LIVES

addicted.org • 1-800-304-2219

How to test a sample

1. Set aside at least **10 mg** of the drug in a clean, dry container.
2. **Add 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of water** per 10 mg and mix until dissolved. Water amount matters; too much causes false negatives.
3. **Dip the wavy end** of the strip in the water for 15 seconds.
4. **Lay the strip flat** on a clean surface for 2 minutes.

How to read the result

Two lines means the test is **NEGATIVE FOR FENTANYL**.

One line to the left (closest to the hand holding the strip) means the test is **POSITIVE FOR FENTANYL**.

No line or a single line to the right (closest to the absorption pad) means the test is **INVALID**.

Limits of test strips

Test strips are a tool, not protection. There are some limitations:

- **Hot spot problem.** Fentanyl can be unevenly distributed in a pill or powder. One part of a batch can test negative while another part contains fentanyl.
- **No dose information.** Strips detect fentanyl but can't measure how much.
- **Some analogs can be missed**, including carfentanil and furanyl fentanyl at low concentrations.
- **False positives** can occur with high concentrations of methamphetamine, MDMA, or diphenhydramine.

Test strips can keep someone alive long enough to make a different choice. They are not a substitute for treatment. If you or someone you know is using fentanyl, or any drug at risk of fentanyl contamination, help is available. Treatment works, and the earlier the conversation happens, the more options exist.

24/7 HELPLINE

1-800-304-2219

FREE · CONFIDENTIAL · NO OBLIGATION

Scan for full guide
or visit
https://www.addicted.org/addiction/fentanyl/test-strips/