

How To Test Your Drugs

Using Fentanyl Test Strips

Why should I test my drugs for fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is a powerful opioid that increases the risk of overdose.
- Fentanyl is commonly found in heroin. It has also been found in powder and crack cocaine, methamphetamine, ketamine, and pills from nonmedical sources.
- Fentanyl cannot be detected by sight, taste, smell, or touch.
- Knowing if the drugs you plan to use contain fentanyl can lower your risk of overdose.



What are fentanyl test strips?

- Test strips can tell you if your drugs contain fentanyl but not how much fentanyl there is or how strong it is.
- Test strips can prevent overdose if used correctly and with other risk reduction practices.



How can I test my drugs for fentanyl?

There are three ways to test your drugs for fentanyl. Choose the option that works best for you.

Step 1: Choose your option.

Option 1

- Dissolve all the drugs you plan to use in water by following the instructions in **Step 2**.
 - This is the most accurate way to test your drugs since fentanyl is not always mixed evenly throughout. If you cannot test your drugs this way, try **Option 2** or **3**.
 - After testing your drugs this way, you can drink them, snort them using a clean nasal spray device, or wait until the water evaporates to use them.



Option 2

- Finely crush your drugs on a clean surface.
- Put the crushed drugs in a small plastic bag and shake it to cover the inside of the bag.
- Empty the bag and put your drugs to the side. A small amount of drug residue should be left in the bag.
- Add water to the bag by following the instructions in **Step 2**.



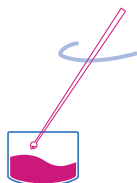
Option 3

- Put 10 milligrams (mg) of your drugs (enough to cover Abraham Lincoln's hair on a penny) in a clean, dry container.
- If you cannot test 10 mg of your drugs, put at least a few grains in a clean, dry container.
- Add water to the container by following the instructions in **Step 2**.



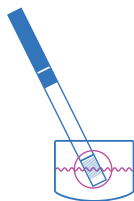
Step 2: Add water.

- Add water to your drugs and mix them up.
 - For every 10 mg of drugs, add 1 teaspoon, which is equal to 5 milliliters (ml), of water.
 - If you are testing the residue in a plastic bag as outlined in Option 2, use 1 teaspoon or 5 ml of water, as if there were 10 mg of drugs.



Step 3: Use the test strip.

- Hold the test strip with the wavy side down in the water. Do not dip the strip in the water past the wavy lines.
- Let the strip absorb the water for 15 seconds.
- Take the strip out of the water and place it on a flat surface for two minutes.
- Read the results.



Tips for testing your drugs:

- Do not use test strips more than once.
- Finely crush pills and tablets, add water to the powder, and mix thoroughly. If you do not want to test the entire pill, break it in half and test a portion from the middle.

What do the test results mean?



- **Positive test:** Fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid has been detected in your drugs. If you are not planning to use fentanyl or opioids, avoid using the drugs, or see the “What else can I do to lower my risk of overdose?” section on the back of this brochure.



- **Negative test:** Fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid has not been detected in your drugs. Remember, no test is 100% accurate and your drugs may still contain fentanyl or a similar synthetic opioid.



- **Invalid test:** A single line on the right-hand side or no line at all indicates an invalid test. If possible, retest your drugs using a new strip.

What else can I do to lower my risk of overdose?

- Use drugs with other people and take turns using them.
- Get naloxone, a safe and easy-to-use medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Call **311** to find out where to get naloxone at no cost.
- Before using drugs, ask someone you trust to check on you regularly.
- Go slow by taking small amounts.
- Avoid mixing drugs.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit nyc.gov/fentanyl.