

## How To Test Your Drugs Using Xylazine Test Strips

Xylazine, commonly known as “tranq,” is an animal tranquilizer that has been found in the New York City (NYC) drug supply. Xylazine can cause extreme sedation, which increases the risk of overdose, and severe skin wounds. Test strips can help you determine if drugs you plan to use contain xylazine.

### How do I test my drugs for xylazine?

1. Put about 10 milligrams (mg) of your drugs (enough to cover Abraham Lincoln’s hair on a penny) in a clean, dry container (such as a medicine measuring cup) or a plastic microscope (if you have one).
  - If you cannot test 10 mg of your drugs, put at least a few grains in a clean, dry container.
2. Add 5 milliliters (1 teaspoon) of water to your drugs and stir.
3. Place the test strip with the wavy side down in the water. Let the strip absorb the water for 15 seconds.
4. Take the test strip out of the water and place it on a flat surface for five minutes before reading the results. Make sure to read the results within 10 minutes of taking the strip out of the water.

If you also have fentanyl test strips, you can test your drugs for fentanyl and xylazine using the same sample.

### What do the test results mean?

One line is a **positive test**, meaning xylazine has been detected in your drugs. See the “What should I do if I get a positive test result or think my drugs contain xylazine?” section for guidance.



Two lines (even if the second line is very faint) is a **negative test**, meaning xylazine has **not** been detected in your drugs. However, no test is 100% accurate, so your drugs may still contain xylazine.



No lines or one line closer to the wavy side of the strip is an **invalid test**. Retest your drugs with a new strip, if available.



Remember, no test is 100% accurate. Certain conditions may increase your chances of getting a false positive (for example, certain substances, such as lidocaine, being present in your drugs) or a false negative (for example, the sample you tested not containing xylazine, but xylazine being present in the rest of your drugs).

### **What should I do if I get a positive test result or think my drugs contain xylazine?**

- Consider not using the drugs, especially if you are alone or in a place where it might be dangerous to be unconscious for a long time.
- Bring them to an overdose prevention center to use under supervision.
- If you have skin wounds, continuing to use xylazine can make them worse. If you have wounds that do not improve or go away, talk to your health care provider. For help finding a provider, call **311** or 844-692-4692.

### **Where can I get xylazine test strips?**

You can order xylazine test strips for personal use online from manufacturers, including the MATTERS Network at [mattersnetwork.org/request-test-strips](https://mattersnetwork.org/request-test-strips).

### **What can I do to lower my risk of opioid overdose?**

Xylazine is not an opioid. However, in NYC, xylazine has only been found with drugs that also contain fentanyl (a very strong opioid). If you use drugs that contain xylazine, take steps to reduce your risk of opioid overdose:

- Avoid using drugs alone. Use drugs with other people and take turns using them.
  - If you are going to use alone, call the Never Use Alone hotline at 800-484-3731 before using.
- Before using drugs, ask someone you trust to check on you regularly.
- Go slow by taking small amounts.
- Avoid mixing drugs.
- Get naloxone, a safe and easy-to-use medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose (even if the person stays sedated due to the xylazine). Call **311** to find out where to get naloxone at no cost.

For more information, including treatment, harm reduction and drug checking services, visit [nyc.gov/alcoholanddrugs](https://nyc.gov/alcoholanddrugs). If you have any questions about testing your drugs, email [drugchecking@health.nyc.gov](mailto:drugchecking@health.nyc.gov).