



HOW TO TEST YOUR DRUGS FOR FENTANYL

Before using the strips, read all the instructions twice. For the latest updates visit: dancesafe.org/fentanyl

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

FENTANYL and various fentanyl analogues are highly potent synthetic opioids between fifty and hundreds of times stronger than heroin. Since 2013 they have killed hundreds of thousands of people in North America alone. Accidentally ingesting fentanyl-laced heroin, cocaine, meth and other drugs—including counterfeit pharmaceutical pills—is the single greatest risk facing people who use drugs today.

ABOUT OUR FENTANYL TESTING STRIPS

If used correctly, our fentanyl testing strips can detect fentanyl and most of its known analogs, including carfentanil. However, they cannot detect all of them. A negative result, therefore, does not guarantee your drug sample is free from all synthetic opioids.

⚠ WARNING! Fentanyl test strips from other sources may not work the same. We conducted an independent study in conjunction with the University of California assessing a variety of testing strips sold on the market. Out of five different strips we tested, four could not detect carfentanil and one from a Chinese manufacturer did not work at all.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW ABOUT FENTANYL

When fentanyl (or a fentanyl analog) is mixed with heroin, cocaine or other drugs, it is NEVER mixed evenly. Powder from one side of a baggie (or on one edge of a pressed tablet) may contain no fentanyl at all, yet powder from the other side may contain a fatal dose. This is called the “chocolate chip cookie effect” and is why it is important to test every bit of the drug you intend to consume.



Prince died after accidentally consuming counterfeit Vicodin pills that actually contained fentanyl.



The fentanyl may be isolated here. Because of the chocolate chip cookie effect, it's best to test every bit you intend to consume.



METHOD #1: TEST EVERYTHING YOU INTEND TO CONSUME

The best method is to test every bit you intend to consume. This requires dissolving your entire dose in water, which means you will need to drink your dose if you decide to take it. For drugs like cocaine or meth that many people like to insufflate (snort), drinking it will still work. It will take longer to feel the effects, but they will last longer.

1. Place all of the drug you intend to consume into a small glass. (For pressed tablets, first crush them into a powder.)
2. Add water.
 - If you are testing methamphetamine or MDMA, add one teaspoon of water (about 5ml) for each 10mg of crystal or powder. It is important to get this ratio correct because meth and MDMA give false positives if they are too concentrated. Specifically, you need to dilute down to about 2mg/ml, but not too much more than that. This is about one teaspoon for every 10mg. This method will avoid false positives but will still be able to detect a fatal dose of fentanyl, carfentanil and most other fentanyl analogs. (This will not work for pressed ecstasy tablets because there is no way to determine how much binder material versus actual MDMA is in the tablet. Therefore, with pressed ecstasy tablets there is always a risk of inaccurate results.)
 - If you are testing cocaine, or any drug other than methamphetamine or MDMA, add two teaspoons of water per 100mg of powder. This is approximately 10mg/ml. This is an ideal dilution to detect fentanyl and most of its analogs in powdered drugs.
 - If you are testing a pressed pharmaceutical tablet, add just enough water to dissolve the crushed powder.
3. Stir the contents until it is thoroughly dissolved. (Binder material in tablets may not dissolve. That's ok.)
4. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the liquid, no higher than the blue line.
5. Allow the liquid to travel up the strip into the test area. (This takes about 15 seconds.)
6. Set the strip down on a flat surface and wait about two minutes. See “Interpreting the results” below.

Note: It's always best to use a milligram scale, but if you don't have one, 10mgs is approximately the amount of powder it takes to cover Abraham Lincoln's face on a penny. (You can also buy a 10mg micro scoop from our website.)



This is about 10mg.

A level scoop of powder using our micro scoop is approximately 10mg.

Available at dancesafe.org/product/micro-scoop



METHOD #2: TESTING THE RESIDUE INSIDE YOUR BAGGIE

CAUTION! This is NOT the recommended method for testing. The best method is to test every bit you intend to consume. However, some people may not be willing to dissolve their entire dose of drugs in water every time they partake. In that case, the next best method is to test the residue stuck to the inside of the baggie the drugs came in. This method may not detect fentanyl due to the chocolate chip cookie effect, but it is better than not testing at all.

1. Empty the powder or crystals inside your baggie onto a plate, crush or chop them into the finest powder possible. (You can use the bottom of a metal spoon for crushing. A straight razor blade is best for fine chopping.) Now put the powder back in the baggie, seal it and shake it well, then open it and dump the powder back out again. Now you should have a baggie with well-distributed residue stuck to the inside walls.
2. Put about half a teaspoon of water into the baggie and swish it around to dissolve the residue. (A half teaspoon is about 2.5ml.)
 - Note: If you are testing methamphetamine or MDMA, depending on how much residue is stuck to the inside of the baggie, you may need to use a full teaspoon of water. For these two drugs, you want the dilution to be approximately 2mg/ml, because if it is more concentrated than that you may get a false positive. Be careful not to dilute it too much, though, because then the strips may not be able to detect the fentanyl. If we assume there is at most 10mg of residue stuck to the inside walls of the baggie, then one teaspoon of water (about 5ml) is the proper amount.
3. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the liquid, no higher than the blue line.
4. Allow the liquid to travel up the strip into the test area. (This takes about 15 seconds.)
5. Set the strip down on a flat surface and wait about two minutes. See "Interpreting the results" below.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR IV DRUG USERS

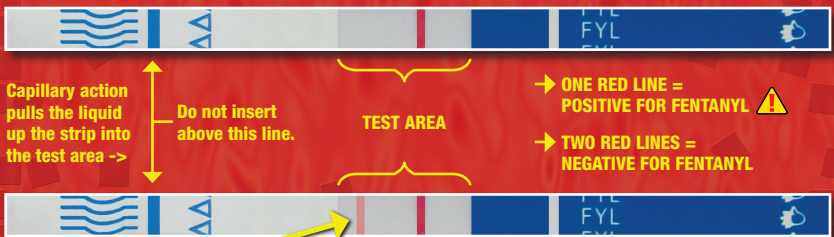
If you inject heroin or other drugs, you should test every time you inject. The easiest method is to test the residue from your spoon or cooker.

1. After preparing your shot, set the needle aside and wait to inject.
2. Add about 1ml (1/4 of a teaspoon) of clean water into the spoon or cooker.
3. Hold the blue end of the test strip and insert the other end into the liquid.
4. Allow the liquid to travel up the strip into the test area. (This may take 30 seconds.)
5. Set the strip down on a flat surface and wait about two minutes. See "Interpreting the results" below.



INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

One red line on top is a **POSITIVE** result for the presence of fentanyl or one of its analogs. Two red lines is a **NEGATIVE** result. No red lines (or one red line on the bottom) means the test is invalid. (Usually this happens because the liquid did not travel far enough up the testing strip.)



The lower red line here may be lighter than the upper red line. That is still a negative result.

Disclaimer: DanceSafe's fentanyl test strips are provided for harm reduction use only. They cannot detect every fentanyl analog, nor can they detect other synthetic opioids. A negative test result does not mean a sample is safe to consume. No drug use is 100% safe. For the newest information about fentanyl, see: dancesafe.org/fentanyl

DanceSafe is a nonprofit public health and harm reduction organization. We provide non-judgmental information and services to help people who use drugs make healthy, informed choices. The safest way to avoid the harms from drugs is not to use them, but if you choose to use, use as safely as possible.