

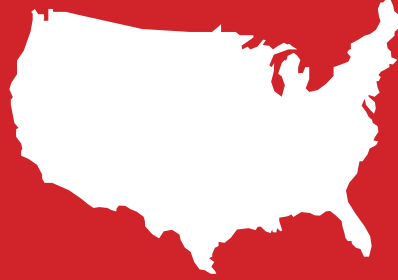
What you need to know about fentanyl

A synthetic, dangerous opioid

Fentanyl is:

50X
stronger
than heroin

100X
stronger
than morphine



Major contributor
to fatal & nonfatal
overdoses

These are **bad** reasons to use fentanyl.

Types and forms of fentanyl

Pharmaceutical fentanyl

Used by doctors to treat severe pain typically after surgery or for advanced-stage cancer.

Illicitly produced fentanyl

Considered synthetic and produced illegally.



Source: cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDHP/sapb/Pages/Fentanyl.aspx

Forms of fentanyl

These include pill, powder and liquid

Rainbow fentanyl

This brightly colored form of fentanyl has been identified as a new trend by the DEA. Like all forms of the drug, it is extremely potent and dangerous.



Counterfeit pills



According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, counterfeit pills are more lethal than ever before. Sometimes illicit fentanyl has been identified in counterfeit pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as oxycodone.



The DEA found that 2 out of every 5 counterfeit pills with fentanyl contains a potentially lethal dose.

Most recent overdoses are linked to **illicitly produced fentanyl**

According to the CDC, it is often added to other drugs because of its extreme potency, making drugs cheaper, more powerful, addictive, and dangerous.



Source: U.S. DEA

At left: fatal amount of **fentanyl**

Shown to scale

What are fentanyl test strips?

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are an inexpensive method to prevent drug overdoses. They are small strips of paper that can detect the presence of fentanyl in a variety of drugs and in a variety of forms including liquid, powder and pills.

How to use fentanyl test strips

Follow these steps to test your drugs for fentanyl using FTS. Depending on the types of drugs you're testing, the steps may be slightly different:

- Step 1:** Put a small amount (at least 10mg) of your drugs aside in a clean, dry container.
- Step 2:** Add water to the container and mix together.
Please note: For most drugs, you need ½ teaspoon of water. If you are testing methamphetamines, use 1 full teaspoon.
- Step 3:** Place the wavy end of the test strip down in the water and let it absorb for about 15 seconds.
- Step 4:** Take the strip out of the water and place it on a flat surface for 2 to 5 minutes.
- Step 5:** Read results.

Understanding your results

Positive results: A single red line on left-hand side.

What it means: Fentanyl (or a fentanyl analog) has been detected in your drugs.

What to do: Discard the drugs. Using them could kill you. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is extremely potent and can be deadly.

Negative results: Two red lines.

What it means: Fentanyl (or a fentanyl analog) has not been detected in your drugs.

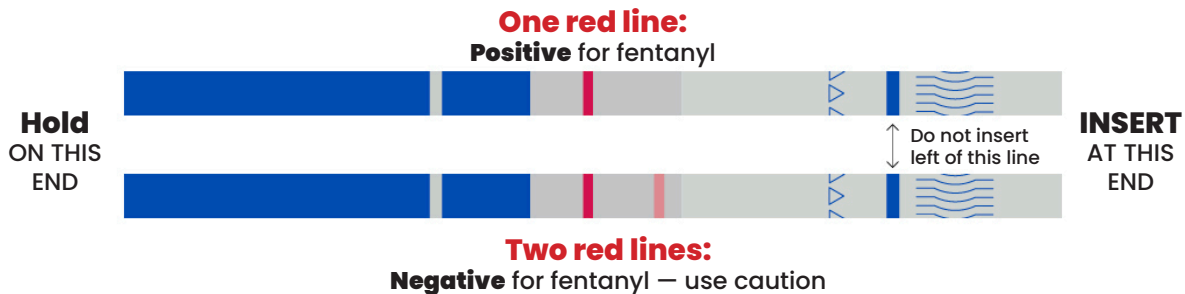
What to do: No test is 100% accurate. Your drugs may still contain fentanyl or fentanyl analogs even with a negative result. Be cautious.

Invalid results: A single red line on the right-hand side or no lines at all.

What it means: Your drug test was invalid.

What to do: Test your drugs again using a new strip

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS



Source: [cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html](https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html)

Lower your risk of overdose

In addition to using fentanyl test strips to test your drugs, there are other ways to lower risk of overdose:

- **Keep naloxone readily available on you and at home.** Talk with a healthcare provider or pharmacist about being prescribed naloxone (e.g., Narcan) if you or someone you know is at risk for an overdose. Check with your local health department or community-based organization to see if they distribute it at no cost.
- **Avoid mixing drugs.** Mixing multiple stimulants (e.g., cocaine and methamphetamine) or depressants (opioids and alcohol), or a combination of both can cause harm and potentially death.
- **Don't rely on a previous sources or experience.** Knowing where your drugs come from doesn't mean they're safe. And just because you have used drugs before doesn't mean your body will react the same way.
- **Never use drugs alone.** Make sure the people around you are aware when you have taken drugs in case they need to give you naloxone or call for emergency assistance.
- **Ask for help if you're ready to get treatment for addiction.** Recovery from substance use disorders is possible — it's okay to ask for help. You can find evidence-based treatment and service options near you through [findtreatment.gov](https://www.findtreatment.gov) or call 800-662-HELP (4357) a 24/7 National Helpline.

THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE EFFECT

ONE PORTION OF A DRUG MAY CONTAIN FENTANYL,

WHILE ANOTHER PORTION MAY NOT.



Source: [cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html](https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html)

Reversing Overdose

Naloxone is a medication used to rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. With a fentanyl overdose, multiple doses may need to be given.