What are fentanyl and xylazine test strips?

Drug checking strips can help you understand if fentanyl or xylazine is in a substance before you use it.

Fentanyl is an extremely potent opioid that may be added to drugs like heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and pills. Fentanyl increases the risk of overdose.

Xylazine is a tranquilizer that is increasingly added to products sold as heroin. It can complicate an overdose and can cause skin wounds that may be difficult to heal.

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) and xylazine test strips (XTS) can detect the presence of these substances, but they aren't perfect. False negative and false positive results are both possible - you can still overdose even when the strip is negative. Follow these instructions closely to get the most accurate results.
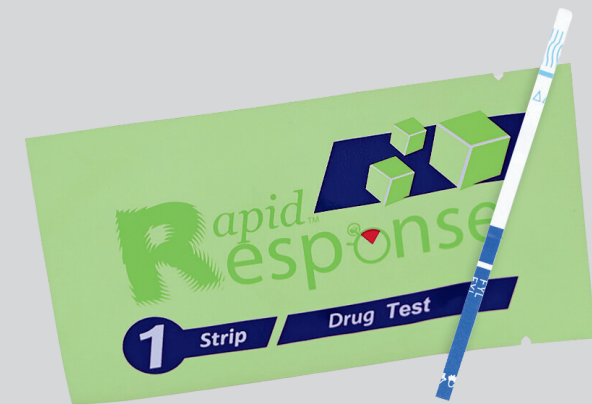
Reducing Risk

Counterfeit pills and products sold as heroin often contain fentanyl in inconsistent quantities. Xylazine may be mixed with fentanyl. It can be very difficult to know what you are getting and how strong it is.

Start with the lowest dose. Go slowly. Try to wait between using different types of drugs.

Carry naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdose. Use FindNaloxoneNowKY.org to find naloxone near you.

If you're using drugs, try to have someone there with you who's not using the same thing at the same time, who has naloxone and can give it to you if you need it. If no one is available, call the Never Use Alone number for support: 1-800-696-1996.

Fentanyl and Xylazine Test Strips

If you know what you're taking, you can reduce your risk.

Find Naloxone Now KY

FindNaloxoneNowKY.org

Step 1:
Get a sample ready.

Place a small amount of the substance, about the size of a match head, in a clean dry container.

Test only 5-10 milligrams.

If you're testing a pill, make sure you remove different parts of the pill to avoid "the chocolate chip cookie effect."

THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE EFFECT

ONE PORTION OF A DRUG MAY CONTAIN FENTANYL, WHILE ANOTHER PORTION MAY NOT.
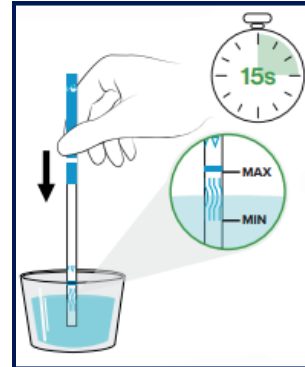
fentanyl   no fentanyl

Step 2: Add water.

Pour 1 teaspoon (5 mL) water into the container and stir to mix.

Step 3:
Dip the strip.

For best results, use the strip within an hour after you take it out of the package.

Place the wavy end of the test strip in the water and hold it there for 15 seconds.

Step 4: Wait.

Take the test strip out of the water and lay it on a flat, non-absorbent surface.

The strip is ready to read when the control line **(C)** appears and the background is clear, usually after about 1 minute.

Do not read the results after 10 minutes.

If no control line **(C)** appears, something went wrong. Repeat the test.

Step 5:
Read the results.

Two red lines is a negative result. Even faint lines are considered negative. Remember, no test is 100% accurate and the substance may still contain xylazine, fentanyl or one of its relatives.

One red line on a fentanyl test strip is a positive result. This means that **_fentanyl has been detected._**

One red line on a xylazine test strip is a positive result. This means that **_xylazine has been detected._**

ONE RED LINE = POSITIVE RESULT

(T)   (C)

TWO RED LINES = NEGATIVE RESULT