# UNDERSTANDING Fentanyl test strips

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) can be used to identify the presence of fentanyl in unregulated drugs. Being aware if fentanyl is present in a drug allows for the use of harm reduction strategies to reduce the risk of drug poisoning.

These tests are not 100% accurate, and they can't tell you how much is in your drugs, but there is research\* to support the use of FTS alongside sensory strategies as an effective harm reduction tool.

\*Zibbell et al. Consumer discernment of fentanyl in illicit opioids confirmed by fentanyl test strips. International Journal of Drug Policy. 01/2021.

## **USING FENTANYL TEST STRIPS**

#### **OPTION 01**

Finely crush your drugs on a clean surface.

- Put the crushed drugs in a small, plastic bag and shake the bag to mix them.
- Empty the bag and put your drugs to the side. A small amount of drug residue should be left

Then see below

in the bag.



### OR OPTION 02

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.

Then see below



### ADD WATER TO YOUR DRUGS AND MIX THEM UP.

- For meth, MDMA, and ecstasy, use 1 teaspoon of water for every 10 mg of crystal or powder you are testing.
- For all other drugs, use a half teaspoon of water.

#### USE THE TEST STRIP.

- Place the test strip with the wavy side down in the water. 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.





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