

TobacAlert

Home test for **Nicotine and Tobacco** exposure

INTRODUCING THE NEW PATENTED TESTING STRIP FROM **NYMOX**

What is TobacAlert?

*TobacAlert*TM is a home test that provides you with a quick, accurate, on-the-spot determination of a person's level of exposure to tobacco products including second hand smoke. It is not intended for medical use.

*TobacAlert*TM is an easy to use, fast and accurate urine test strip. It can detect exposure to second hand smoke and the use of **cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco**.

*TobacAlert*TM measures levels of cotinine, a byproduct of the body's breakdown of nicotine, the active ingredient found in tobacco products and tobacco smoke. Cotinine is a widely accepted indicator of recent tobacco product use and exposure, including second hand smoke exposure.

Primary Uses

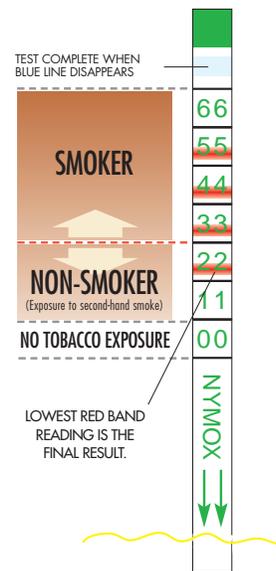
Detection of recent **second hand smoke exposure**. Potential users include parents of young children, workers in a smoky workplace and other persons concerned about the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

Detection, verification and monitoring of tobacco use status. Potential users include **smokers trying to quit, parents** worried about whether a teenaged child may be smoking, **coaches, insurance companies and smoking cessation counsellors**.

*NOTE: TobacAlert*TM is for non-medical use. *TobacAlert*TM is not intended to diagnose, treat or prevent any disease or medical condition.

How it works

The end of the *TobacAlert*TM strip contains gold particles coated with an antibody that selectively binds to cotinine in the urine. After the end of the strip is dipped in urine, the gold particles migrate through specialized "traps" in the strip. The more cotinine bound to a gold particle, the further it is able to migrate along the strip. The reddish bands seen on the developed strip correspond to gold particles caught in a particular trap. *TobacAlert*TM is extremely sensitive and can measure amounts as low as 6 nanograms of cotinine per milliliter of urine (6 billionths of a gram in one fifth of a teaspoon).



TobacAlert QUICK GUIDE

IMPORTANT: Do not put any part of the TobacAlert strip in your mouth.

1	YOU WILL NEED... ONE CLEAN & DRY CONTAINER FOR URINE + CLOCK + ONE TobacAlert TEST STRIP
2	FILL CONTAINER WITH URINE TO 1/2" (1.25cm) DEEP.
3	CAREFULLY REMOVE STRIP FROM PACKAGE. TOUCH ONLY THE GREEN-TIPPED END. IMPORTANT: USE STRIP WITHIN 10 MINUTES.
4	PLACE STRIP IN URINE CONTAINER FOR 20 SECONDS. IMPORTANT: DO NOT DIP THE STRIP ABOVE THE GREEN ARROWS.
5	PLACE DIPPED STRIP ON BACK OF THIS CARD. IMPORTANT: ONCE DIPPED, STRIP MUST BE PUT ON A NON-ABSORBENT SURFACE.
6	WAIT FOR THE BLUE LINE ON THE STRIP TO DISAPPEAR (APPROX. 15 MINUTES) AND YOUR MEASUREMENT IS COMPLETE. SEE CHART ON BACK FOR DETAILS. IMPORTANT: LOWEST RED BAND READING IS YOUR RESULT. Example: Sample at far right renders a result at Level 5 - not Level 6.



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LEVEL	COTININE CONCENTRATION (ng-ml)	INTERPRETATION
0	0 - 6	Non-user of tobacco products. Minimal or no nicotine exposure
1	6 - 30	Non-user of tobacco products. Low passive nicotine exposure
2	30 - 100	Non-user of tobacco products but higher passive nicotine exposure
3	100 - 200	User of tobacco products
4	200 - 500	User of tobacco products
5	500 - 1000	User of tobacco products
6	1000+	User of tobacco products

Questions and Answers

Q: Is it necessary to use a morning urine?

A: No. The test can use a urine sample collected at any time of the day.

Q: What does a variation in the intensity of the color of the result signify?

A: The colors may vary from pale pink to reddish, but this is not significant.

Q: What if the results are not clear to me?

A: If no reddish lines appear, the test has not been used according to the instructions. Repeat with a new test following the instructions carefully.

Q: Do medications influence the result?

A: Except for nicotine medications such as a patch or nicotine gum, medicines do not usually have an effect on the result.

Q: What does a negative result mean?

A: A negative result ("0") means that you have no or very little second hand smoke exposure in the past 2 to 3 days. It also means that you have not used a tobacco product in the past 2 to 3 days.

Q: What does a positive result mean?

A: A positive result ("1" or higher) means that you have been exposed to second hand smoke in the past 2 to 3 days if you are a non-user of tobacco products. A positive result can also be caused by use of tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, etc., or nicotine medications such as a patch or nicotine gum or lozenge. A positive result of "3" or higher indicates that you are very likely a smoker or user of tobacco or nicotine products.

Q: Are there any medications or foods, etc. that can cause the test to be positive even when there is no second hand smoke exposure (this is called a "false positive")?

A: The test can be positive if you are a smoker, if you chew tobacco, or if you use a nicotine patch or nicotine gum.

Q: What is the lowest amount of second hand smoke exposure that the test can detect?

A: The test can detect as little as 6 nanograms per mL of cotinine (a nanogram is one billionth of a gram, a mL is one fifth of a teaspoon). The amount of exposure you have will vary depending on the amount of smoke in the air and other factors. The test can be positive if you have been in a tobacco smoke environment for a little as an hour in the past 2 to 3 days.

Q: Are there other tests available like this?

A: Currently there are no other similar reliable quantitative tests for tobacco product exposure (without sending samples to a slow, costly specialized reference laboratory).

Q: What is the equivalent number of cigarettes per day (cpd) to the cotinine level?

A: The cpd level is a poor measure of nicotine intake, which is why the test is so valuable. Different smokers use different brands, inhale differently and smoke varying amounts of the cigarette.

