

Fentanyl Properties: Here's What You Need To Know

Fentanyl use is on the rise in North America, taking the lives of 113 Albertans in the first three months of 2017 alone.

Fentanyl is an odorless and tasteless synthetic opiate narcotic, difficult to detect without proper equipment. It is 50–100 times more potent than heroin, oxycodone and morphine, making even a dose as small as 2mg potentially lethal to a healthy adult.



Given the recent spike in fentanyl activity, REALTORS® must remain vigilant.

Fentanyl, which is often confused with oxycodone by recreational drug users, is more potent and fast-acting than other common narcotics. With demand for this drug increasing, so does the demand for drug labs or processing centres which are often set up illegally inside the home. Unsuspecting users, or unprepared visitors touring a fentanyl property are at risk from fentanyl dust in the air or on surfaces, as it can be absorbed by inhaling or through contact with their skin.

Here are signs you may be in an illegal fentanyl processing centre:

- Pill pressing machines and/or powder mixers are present.
- Pills or dust (similar to drywall dust) in unusual places.
- Lumber, concrete blocks or other weights seem out of place.
- Unusual amounts of over-the-counter containers of caffeine/glucose powders are present (commonly used as fillers).
- Excess shipping materials such as shrink wrap, tape or protective boxed corners.

Fentanyl health complications range from drowsiness and nausea, to accidental overdose and death.



What to do if you think there is fentanyl present

1. **DO NOT** touch anything
2. **Exit** the premises in a safe manner
3. Dial **911**

Quick facts

- Fentanyl can be found in both powder and pill form, and can come in a variety of colours, including black, beige, green, pink, orange and white.
- If you are suspicious about the history of a property, advise your client to seek expert advice from home or health inspectors, an engineer or legal advisor.