

THE FAKE PILL TRADE HASN'T GONE AWAY

Counterfeit prescription pills made with synthetic opioids, methamphetamine and other dangerous drugs have killed people in all 50 U.S. states since 2015. Many of those victims had no idea that they weren't taking a legitimate prescription drug.

Cartels smuggle millions of these pills into the country each year, but the U.S. also has **homegrown traffickers** who import ingredients and supplies to make their own.

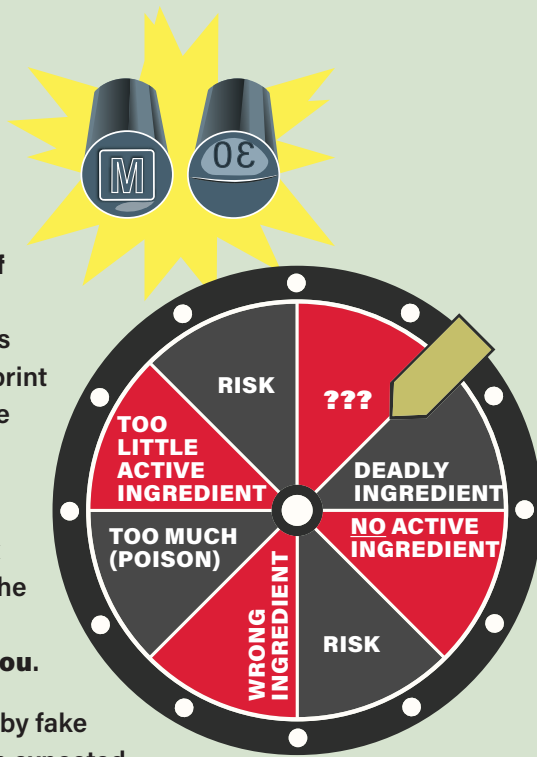


THE LINCHPIN: PILL PRESSES

These criminals use **pill presses to compress all kinds of powdered drugs into tablets**. Interchangeable pill dies and molds inside the machines shape and imprint the tablets so that they look like the real thing.

They make fentanyl pills disguised as Percocet, oxycodone and Xanax that have taken huge tolls here in the U.S., but the truth is that **anything counterfeiters make can harm you**.

People have been fatally poisoned by fake Xanax that contained stronger than expected sedatives, and patients who encounter counterfeit blood thinners, antibiotics, or cancer drugs with no active ingredients are denied life-or-death medical treatment.



PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FAKE PILLS

GET MEDICINE FROM SAFE SOURCES

- Only take prescription medicine that your doctor prescribed for you.
- Buy it from licensed U.S. pharmacies.



- Never purchase medicine from social media, messaging apps or foreign pharmacy websites.
- Don't accept pills from friends or acquaintances.

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids in counterfeit pills and illicit drugs are driving drug deaths across the U.S. Fentanyl poisonings can happen at any place or time.



PEEL



HOLD



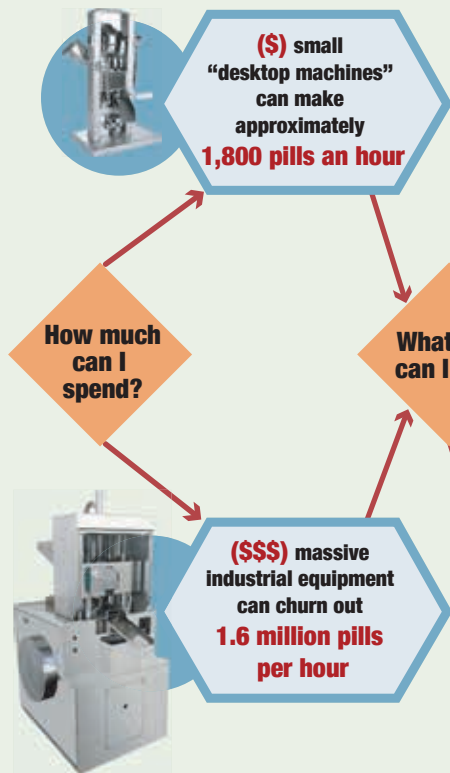
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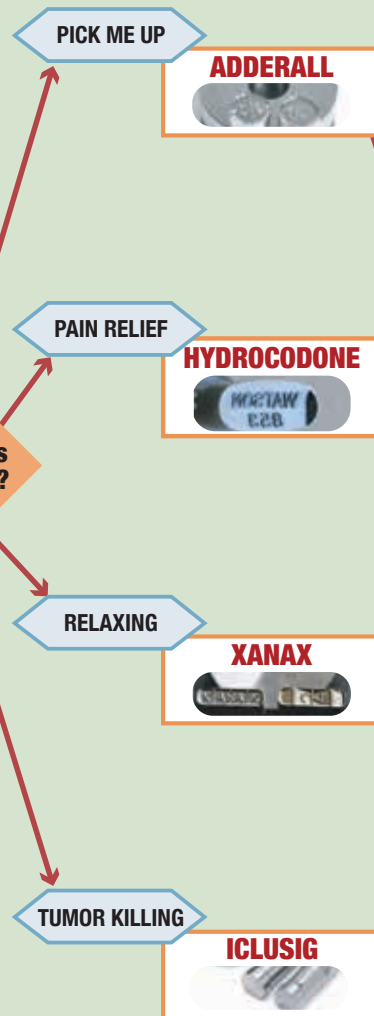
Naloxone (brand name Narcan), a nasal spray that reverses opioid overdoses, is the **first-line treatment for opioid poisoning**. It is available over the counter at pharmacies. If you carry it and learn how to use it, you could save someone's life.

HOW CRIMINALS MAKE FAKE PILLS

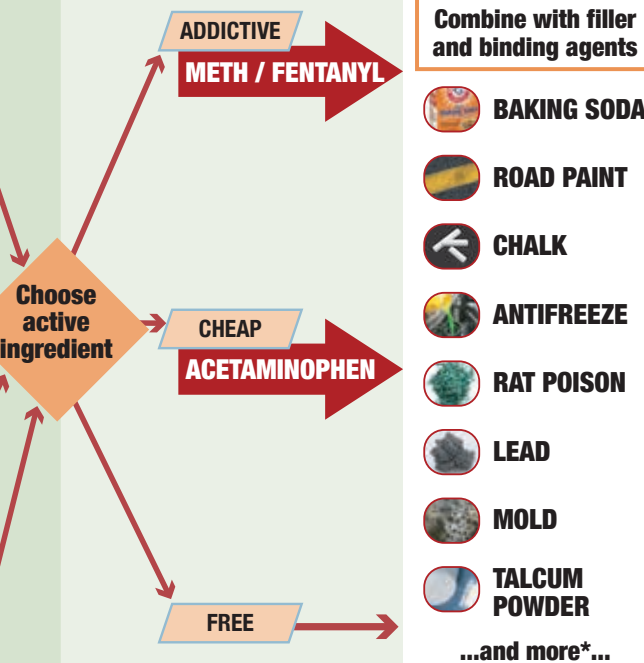
1 BUY A PILL PRESS



2 ORDER PILL MOLD ONLINE



3 GET INGREDIENTS



4 MAKE FAKE PILLS



*see <https://www.safemedicines.org/2015/11/poisons.html>