The Effect of Breath Freshener Strips on Two Types of Breath Alcohol Testing Instruments

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Published at:

- The Journal of Forensic Science
- July 2004, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp 829-31
Two Breath Test Defenses

- Mouth Alcohol
- Interfering Substances
Breath Strips

• Thin dry films with breath freshening ingredients. Strips dissolve on the tongue to release their flavorings.

• Also available in fruit flavors and as a delivery medium for some medications such as cough and sore throat preparations.
Brands and Flavors Tested

- Listerine
  - Cool Mint, Fresh Burst
- Wrigley’s
  - Thin Ice, Eclipse Peppermint, Spearmint, Cinnamon
- Altoids
  - Mint, Cinnamon
- Myntz
  - Mtny, Cynnamon
- Nature’s Gate
  - Mint, Anise
Method

• Placed strip on tongue
• At 30 seconds provided breath sample
• At 150 seconds provided breath sample
• Recorded results
ASIV Results

• No response to the presence of breath strips.
DataMaster Results

• Several readings of up to 0.010 at 30 seconds
• All readings 0.000 at 150 seconds
Conclusions

• With a proper pre-test deprivation and observation period, breath strips have no effect on evidential breath testing.

• Even under screening protocols, breath strips would not be expected to interfere with fuel cell based PAS devices.