



This Handheld Pesticide Test Was Designed For Pot, But Soon It Will Work On Dinner

A new device can test marijuana for safety and potency, its makers claim—something that up until now has only been done in labs. But weed is just the beginning.

By Ben Schiller Mar 26, 2014 10:36 PM

One day cannabis may be subject to the same quality assurance standards as other things we ingest and inhale, like prescription drugs and food. But not yet. Today, many of the products sold legally (20 states currently allow marijuana sales) aren't well tested, with strains often contaminated in handling, ridden with mold and E.coli, or covered in pesticides.

While we wait for better testing laws, citizens have to look after themselves. That's where a device like MyDx comes in. A small testing kit that links to your smartphone, its creators claim that the device can immediately tell you if your weed contains certain cannabinoids, terpenoids, and nasty chemicals.

"There's no quick, easy, affordable way to test safety and potency of cannabis samples. People don't know what they're putting in their bodies," says Daniel Yazbeck, co-founder of the San Diego company. "If a doctor prescribes cannabis to you, and you go the dispensary and see a bunch of jars, it doesn't mean anything. It's just names."

Cannabis testing labs have been springing up to serve the legal market (as we wrote here). But Yazbeck reckons they won't serve all outlets or customers, leaving plenty of space for home-grown solutions (of course, there's the illicit cannabis space to serve as well). To use the little black device, you simply sync your phone, place a small sample in a sliding tray, and wait for the read-out...