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Personal breathalyzer available to help with New Year's Eve partying decisions

By [Liz Carey \(Contact\)](#)
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Motorists concerned about driving while intoxicated this holiday weekend have a new way to see if they are sober enough to drive.

A new personal breathalyzer, the BACtrack, can help New Year's Eve revelers determine how much is too much.

The hand-held device can measure a person's blood alcohol content using the person's saliva. According to the company that makes the product, by breathing into the device 15 to 20 minutes after drinking, a person can determine with some accuracy their own blood alcohol content.

"BACtrack can help you ring in the New Year responsibly, so you won't have to ring your attorney because of a DUI arrest," said Keith Nothacker, founder and president of KHN Solutions LLC, which manufactures and distributes BACtrack.

"Because of its size, price and ease of use, the BACtrack breathalyzer should be standard equipment, like a wallet or a purse, for New Year's Eve," Mr. Nothacker said, according to a prepared statement. "What was once an intimidating device used only by police is now a social item that can and should be used by everyone consuming alcohol."

In South Carolina the legal blood alcohol limit for adults is 0.08 percent.

Susann Griffin, spokeswoman for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, said the amount of alcohol it takes a person to become legally drunk is less than people may think.

"The average person should have no more than two alcoholic drinks per hour and drive," Ms. Griffin said. "When I participated in (a training exercise) ... it took me two beers to reach 0.08. It's different for every person. When I participated in that class, I was shocked. I did not feel the least bit impaired, but had I been pulled over, I would have been legally under the influence. It made me keenly aware that it takes very little to be considered under the influence."

According to the company, the device can measure blood alcohol content from 0.00 percent to 0.4 percent. The device retails at [Target.com](#) for \$79.99.

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