

Table: Brands of dental floss tested

Using a technique called particle-induced gamma-ray emission (PIGE) spectroscopy, we tested for the presence or absence of fluorine—a marker of PFAS—in a selection of 18 different dental flosses.

Product name on package	Number of packages tested ¹	Did we detect fluorine?
Colgate Total Dental Floss Mint	2	Yes
CVS Health SuperSlip Ease Between Waxed ²	2	Yes
Oral-B Glide Pro-Health Mint	2	Yes
Oral-B Glide Pro-Health Original	5	Yes
Crest Glide Deep Clean Cool Mint Floss ³	1	Yes
Signature Care Mint Waxed Comfort Floss ²	1	Yes
CVS Unwaxed	1	–
Desert Essence Tea Tree Oil Dental Tape	1	–
EcoDent Gentle Floss Premium Dental Floss with Essential Oils Mint Vegan Waxed	1	–
Johnson & Johnson Listerine Cool Mint Mint Floss	1	–
Johnson & Johnson Reach Clean Paste Icy Mint Woven Floss	1	–
Johnson & Johnson Reach Mint Waxed	1	–
Reach Mint Waxed	2	–
Reach Waxed Unflavored	1	–
Oral-B Complete Deep Clean Ultra Mint	1	–
Oral-B Satin Floss Mint	1	–
Rite-Aid Premium Waxed Mint Floss ²	1	–
Tom's of Maine Naturally Waxed Antiplaque Flat Floss	1	–

¹ Duplicate pairs from a package are listed as one sample. Results of all duplicate pairs (n = 5), and of all packages of the same product, were in agreement.

² Product packaging includes the phrase “Compare to Oral B Glide Pro-Health.”

³ Crest Glide was subsequently rebranded as Oral B Glide by its parent company Procter & Gamble.

Reference:

K.E. Boronow, J.G. Brody, L.A. Schaidler, G.F. Peaslee, L. Havas, B.A. Cohn. 2019. [“Serum concentrations of PFASs and exposure-related behaviors in African American and non-Hispanic white women.”](#) Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology. DOI: 10.1038/s41370-018-0109-y

Credit: Silent Spring Institute