

Dexsil[®] Lead Test

Surface Lead Test Swab

Colorimetric Test for Lead in Paint and other Non-Porous Surfaces

Read entire directions before proceeding.
Wear gloves and safety glasses when performing the test.

Prepare Surface to be Tested:

To eliminate external sources of contamination, remove all dust and dirt from surface. (NOTE: In many cases dust can be a source of lead contamination. For a more inclusive test, including dust, test a similar surface without prior cleaning.)

Cut a ½ inch long notch through all of the paint layers until reaching substrate. Try to cut the notch at a shallow angle to expose as much of the edge of the different paint layers as possible. This will allow the swab a better chance of detecting lead in the layers below the top layer of paint.

Prepare Test Swab:

The swab consists of a clear plastic tube containing two ampules, capped with a proprietary abrasive swab. The ampule closest to the swab contains a powdered rhodizonate indicator while the other ampule contains an aqueous buffer solution. They are shipped inverted in a paper sleeve to protect the swab end.

Activate Test Swab:

Remove the clear plastic tube and inspect ampules for damage. Note the relative location of the ampules. Flip plastic tube end-for-end and reinsert it into the paper tube with the swab end showing.

Activate the reagents by first crushing the indicator ampule near the swab end then the buffer ampule. Try to squeeze the center of the ampule for easiest crushing. Lightly shake the test swab to mix the reagents making sure the swab end is pointed up. With tip facing down, gently squeeze the sides of the tube near the middle until amber liquid comes to tip; use the activated swab immediately.

Test Surface:

Rub the swab end on the notched area for 30 seconds while gently squeezing the tube. Squeeze tube hard enough to keep surface saturated with amber liquid, but not so hard that an area larger than the notch is covered with the liquid. Observe swab and/or paint surface for characteristic color. If lead is present, a characteristic pink color will appear.

Notes:

Some forms of lead are less soluble than others; this may delay the development of pink color by hours. Multiple layers of non-lead based oil based paint may also hamper the development of color. To help counter these factors, swab the test surface for a further 30 seconds and observe the color right away and after a few hours.

Paint or substrate pigments may also cause a coloring of the swab. Repeat the test with another swab to check if color of swab is due to lead or paint pigment by performing test without breaking the indicator ampule. In this manner, it can be determined if the buffer is causing the color to be leached out of paint or substrate.

