Instant Lead Test Swabs

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Watch Tutorial

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.

DISCLAIMER

iQuip Lead Test Swabs are a screening test for lead and should not be considered quantitative. Under the conditions described in the instructions, iQuip Lead Test Swabs will detect high levels of leachable lead. Use of this test is not intended to replace a professional inspection. No guarantees are intended or implied.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

The manufacturer assumes no liability for the misuse of iQuip Lead Test Swabs or for the interpretation of the results by the user. If lead contamination is suspected based on this test, consult a professional testing laboratory, a deleading specialist, or your local Department of Public Health.

1. 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 13mm 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 beter chance of detecting lead in the layers below the top layer of paint.

2. 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.

3. 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 centre 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.

4. 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 colour. If lead is present, a characteristic pink colour will appear.

IMPORTANT NOTES

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

Paint or substrate pigments may also cause a colouring of the swab. Repeat the test with another swab to check if colour 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 colour to be leached out of paint or substrate.