

Resene Lead-Based Paint Test Kit instructions

To test paint flakes/chips

1. Verify the activity of the test solution.
2. Cut completely through the flake at an angle with a sharp blade (e.g. snap-blade knife) so that all paint layers can be seen clearly. Note that deeper layers are more likely to contain lead and it may be helpful to repeat testing on a sample cut from the back of the paint flake. More acute cuts will expose more surface for testing.
3. Place the paint flake on the glass slide (or another non-porous surface) and position over a white surface such as the bottom of the test kit box.
4. Place a drop of the test solution to cover all of the exposed paint layers.
5. Examine each paint layer very carefully for signs of discolouration. Where there are more than a few paint layers the use of a magnifying glass may be helpful to examine the individual layers across the edge of the cut. The reverse of the paint flake should also be examined. Any layer containing lead will turn black immediately or over several minutes for paint samples with lower lead content.¹

To test directly on painted surfaces

1. Verify the activity of the test solution.
2. Using a sharp blade (e.g. snap-blade knife), cut or scrape the painted surface at an angle completely through to the substrate so that all paint layers can be seen clearly. Note that deeper layers are more likely to contain lead. More acute cuts will expose more surface for testing.
3. Place a drop of the test solution to cover all of the exposed paint layers.
4. Examine each paint layer very carefully for signs of discolouration. Where there are more than a few paint layers the use of a magnifying glass may be helpful to examine the individual layers across the edge of the cut. Any layer containing lead will turn black immediately or over several minutes for paint samples with lower lead content.¹

Clean up

The test solution contains sodium sulfide which slowly releases odorous hydrogen sulfide. To eliminate smells, the drop of used test solution and

surfaces that have come in contact with the test solution can be bleached with hypochlorite containing bleach (undiluted). Leave bleach in contact with the surface (non-porous surfaces only) for 10-15 minutes and then wash with water containing a mild detergent. The used drop(s) of test solution can be poured into 30-40 mL of undiluted bleach and left to stand for 30 minutes before disposal.

Limitations

Very low concentrations of lead may not be detected with this kit or some time (up to 1-2 hours) may be required before visible colouration develops depending on the actual lead concentration. Contaminants such as iron, copper, nickel, molybdenum or mercury will also result in a positive test colour (dark colours produced).

Further information on lead based paint is available from the Ministry of Health.

HE4157 Repainting Lead-Based Paint <http://www.healthed.govt.nz/resources/repaintinglead-basedpaint.aspx>

HE6018 Guidelines for the Management of Lead-Based Paint
<http://www.healthed.govt.nz/resources/guidelinesforthemanagementoflead-b.aspx>

Resene

the paint the professionals use

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Manufactured under a quality system certified as complying with ISO9001 by Telarc SAI, an accredited certification body. Printed on environmentally responsible paper, which meets with the requirements of environmental management system EMAS. Printed using U.V. inks ensuring no emissions.

