



Testing* For Lead Dust on Skin, Fabric, and Carpeting

Sometimes it is important to determine if lead deposits have accumulated on surfaces where direct application of LeadCheck® Swabs is not desirable. Such surfaces might include skin (fingers), clothing, upholstery, curtains, rugs or other carpeting.

Applications

- To determine if the hands or clothing of workers who handle lead paint removal, batteries, or solder have become contaminated with lead.
- To determine if decontamination procedures have sufficiently removed the lead from contaminated areas of skin, clothing or carpeting.
- In forensic studies, to determine if the area of skin (or fur, or feathers) immediately surrounding a suspected bullet wound contains deposits of lead from the bullet.

Test Method

1. Dip tip of **dry, unactivated** LeadCheck® Swab into water. Shake off excess water.
2. Rub the damp Swab vigorously over the area to be tested.
3. Activate the Swab as directed in the instruction manual.
4. Squeeze barrel of the Swab until one drop of yellow/orange colored solution wets the tip of the Swab.
5. While squeezing gently to keep yellow/orange solution at the Swab tip, rub on a piece of waxed paper, plastic wrap, or a clean white plastic dish for about 30 seconds.
6. Examine the tip of the Swab for the development of a pink color.

Interpretation of Results

1. Pale pink indicates the presence of a minimum of 1-2 µg of lead ion (Pb⁺⁺) on the area tested.
2. The development of a dark pink color within just a few seconds indicates an amount of lead ion in large excess of a few micrograms.
3. The absence of any pink color indicates the amount of lead on the item tested to be less than a few micrograms.

*LeadCheck® Swabs are a versatile and sensitive screening tool for the detection of lead on any surface. This applications note provides a suggested method to allow testing for a specific application. Additional information and help are available by calling 800-262-5323 or 508-651-7881.