



## Testing\* Ceramic Tile

### Background

Ceramic tiles are often coated with lead glazes and fired in a kiln. Improper firing can allow the lead to leach from these glazes. In addition, surface abrasion from "normal" wear and tear can start to break down the glaze which also allows lead to start leaching from the surface. This can be a potential hazard, especially for young children who may pick up lead on their hands while crawling or playing on the tiled surface, and then put their fingers in their mouths. LeadCheck® Swabs can easily be used to detect leachable lead from tiled surfaces.

### Method

1. Activate a LeadCheck® Swab according to the Instruction Manual.
2. Gently squeeze the Swab to force some of the yellow/orange LeadCheck® reagent onto the tile surface.
3. While continuing to squeeze gently, rub the swab tip over the surface of the tile for about 30 seconds.

### Interpretation

If a pink or red color appears on the swab tip or tile surface, potentially hazardous levels of lead are leaching from the tile. In this case, monitor your children's activity. If your children have had exposure to this source of lead while playing, be sure that their blood lead levels have not been elevated. If necessary, remove or cover the tile.

\*LeadCheck® Swabs are a versatile and sensitive screening tool for the detection of lead on any surface. This 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.