



## Testing\* Paint On Brick

### Background

LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swabs are highly specific for lead. No other metals can react with the LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> reagents to turn the swab tip pink. This specificity allows LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> to be used for testing on any surface without the fear of false positive results. If LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swabs turn pink, lead is present. However, brick painted surfaces offer special challenges to the LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> System:

Brick can be porous and therefore highly absorbent. The LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> reagent can be drawn into the surface, making the developed color difficult to see. Also, the pigment in red brick can leave a red deposit on the LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swab tip. The following methods will allow brick painted surfaces to be tested with LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swabs.

### Method

For porous brick:

- 1) Remove a paint chip from the surface and crumble it onto a piece of plastic wrap or wax paper. Activate a LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swab as described in the instructions and rub into the paint.
- 2) Alternative: score the paint down to the brick substrate. Activate a LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swab and rub on the exposed cross-section of paint. Look for pink color development on the exposed paint edge.

For red brick:

- 1) Test for nonspecific color transfer to the swab tip by crushing **only** the B vial of the LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> Swab and rubbing the clear liquid on an exposed section of brick. If the swab tip turns red, remove a paint chip from the test surface. Follow the method described in porous brick (above) to test the paint chip.

### Interpretation

If the swab or the paint chip/edge turns pink or red, lead is present.

\*LeadCheck<sup>®</sup> 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.