

Fact Sheet: Q & A About Home Test Kits for Lead

What are home test kits?

Home test kits are chemical test kits designed to check for lead in paint, soil, and dust. These kits are relatively inexpensive, provide quick results, and are widely available at retail hardware and home improvement stores.

How do home test kits work?

There are a number of different test kits on the market, and procedures for their use vary. Most test kits contain a chemical (either rhodizonate or sodium sulfide) that changes color in the presence of lead.

My home was built before 1978, so it may contain lead-based paint. Can I use a test kit to see whether I have lead that should be removed (abated)?

Though home test kits show promise, their accuracy has not yet been proven by independent field study. For this reason, federal agencies do not recommend using home test kit results as the basis for making decisions about lead in paint, soil, or dust. This applies to all home test kit results, including home test kit results obtained by professional inspectors.

Professional testing for lead in paint is recommended. To receive a list of laboratories that have passed proficiency testing for analysis of lead in paint, soil, and/or dust samples: Call: 1-800-424-LEAD Fax: 202-659-1192 [to request a lab list by fax] When you call or fax, please specify that you are requesting the:

NLLAP/ELPAT List of Laboratories.

The federal government -- HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Office to be exact -- also sponsors The Lead Listing, a comparable list of X-ray fluorescence (XRF) operators in the U.S.

For more info visit HUD's WWW site at: <http://www.hud.gov/lea/leahome>.

SOURCE: National Lead Information Center - Ph: (202) 293-2270; Fax: (202) 293-0032

PROVIDED BY: HomeSafe Lead Testing & Training - Ph: 1-800-648 LEAD - (FS-3 rev.7/98)

Contact HomeSafe Lead Testing at 1-800-648-LEAD (or at WWW.LEADPRO.COM) for a referral to a certified lead inspector, risk assessor or abatement contractor.