Lead in Paint Chip Test Kit
A Step-by-Step Guide

Test your home's painted surfaces for the possible presence of lead, especially in homes built before 1978.

EMSL's Lead in Paint Chip Test Kit provides everything you need to safely collect a paint chip sample and send it to our accredited lab for expert analysis. No special tools or experience required. Just follow the simple steps below.

STEP 1
Getting Started

- Open your kit and confirm all items are present.
- Before collecting your sample, put on the provided gloves and gather your tools.
- Use a clean, flat surface to lay out your materials.

Lay down a paper towel to catch flakes or debris during scraping.

You Will Need

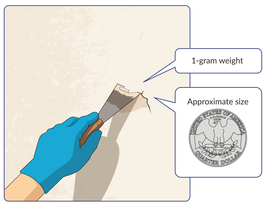
- Putty knife or similar scraping tool
- Flat surface to work on
- Optional: Tape (for catching paint flakes mid-scrape)

STEP 2
Identify a Sampling Area

- Select an area with older painted surfaces. Common sources include:
  - Windows and doors
  - Baseboards and trim
  - Interior/exterior walls
  - Painted furniture or fixtures
- Avoid areas with recent touch-ups or glossy repaint jobs.
- Look for cracked, peeling, or chipping paint.

! Don't sample from freshly painted areas. Look for original or aged surfaces.

STEP 3
Collect the Paint Chip Sample

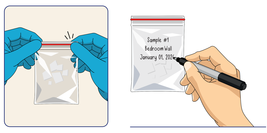


- Use your putty knife or similar tool to gently scrape a paint chip sample.
- Try to collect about a teaspoon-sized amount (roughly 1 gram).
- If the paint is loose or flaking, you can gently lift and gather the pieces.
- Aim for a solid chip that includes all layers of paint down to the substrate (wood, drywall, etc.).

Use tape underneath the area to catch falling flakes if working vertically.

! Avoid contact with your face or ungloved hands. Do not eat or drink while sampling.

STEP 4
Place Sample in Bag & Label



- Place the collected paint chip into the provided sample envelope or plastic bag. Seal securely.
- Label the outside clearly with:
  - Sample number (if applicable)
  - Location sampled (e.g., "Window Frame – Bedroom")
  - Date collected

Do this before sealing to prevent smudging or confusion.

STEP 5
Complete the Sample Data Sheet

- Fill out the Sample Data Sheet completely and legibly. Include your:
  - Full name and contact info
  - Sample location details
  - Turnaround time selection (Standard or Rush)
- If payment info is required, include it as directed on your instruction card.

Keep a photo or copy of the sheet for your records.

STEP 6
Package & Ship Your Sample

- Double-check that:
  - Your sample is sealed in the bag or envelope
  - The label is filled out
  - The data sheet is completed
- Place both in the return mailer and seal securely.
- Drop it off at your mailbox or nearest postal service location.
- Pre-Mail Checklist:
  - Sample labeled
  - Data sheet complete
  - Return mailer sealed

STEP 7
Receive Your Lab Results

- Your results will be sent to you via email or mail, depending on your preference. The lab report will:
  - Indicate whether lead was found
  - Show the measured lead concentration
  - Compare results to federal safety standards
  - Include additional notes if lead levels are elevated
- Questions about your report? Contact EMSL using the information below.

EMSL ANALYTICAL, INC.
TESTING LABS • PRODUCTS • TRAINING

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Keep Out of Reach of Children and Pets

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