

# Solder Lead Check Directions: North Wales Water Authority

## PLUMBING SOLDER AND METAL ALLOYS

3M™ LeadCheck™ Swabs will detect lead in solder and other metal alloys. In plumbing applications, solder is considered “Lead Free” when the lead content is less than 0.2%. 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swabs will always turn pink when the lead concentration is at least 0.2%.

The following procedure is a test for lead in plumbing solder. Rubbing the swab for too long or hard on a prepared solder surface may cause a metallic film to collect on the swab tip. By lightly rubbing or dabbing the 3M™ LeadCheck™ reagent on the solder surface, the swab tip will turn pink first when lead is present, and then turn a purple color which may obscure the pink, if tin is present. If a purple color is obtained the test must be repeated with a new 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swab.

- Using an emery cloth or fine sandpaper, lightly score the surface to be tested.
- Wipe off the solder joint with a paper towel or cloth.
- Activate the 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swab (see GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS).
- Squeeze and maintain pressure on the swab barrel to keep a drop of the (yellow/orange) 3M™ LeadCheck™ reagent at the swab tip.
- Touch the drop of 3M™ LeadCheck™ reagent to the prepared solder surface and lightly brush with the swab tip. DO NOT RUB.
- If pink is observed on the swab tip lead is present.

Please share your test swab results with us. If you have any questions or concerns, call our office M-Th 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and Fri 8:00 – 4:00 pm. Phone # 215-699-4836.

Instructions courtesy of 3M™

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

### How to use 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swabs:

Read full instructions found in package before use.

Each 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swab contains two crushable vials, one with a lead-reactive dye, the other with a pre-measured activator solution. Crush the vials to mix the contents, then bring the tip into contact with the surface to be tested.

### ACTIVATION:

- CRUSH.** Squeeze and crush points marked “A” and “B,” located on the barrel of the Swab.
- SHAKE AND SQUEEZE.** With the Swab tip facing down, shake twice and squeeze gently until the yellow liquid comes to the tip of the Swab — it’s now activated for testing.
- RUB.** While squeezing gently, rub the Swab on the test area for 30 seconds. If the tip turns red or pink, lead is present.

Each 3M™ LeadCheck™ Swab has no shelf life. EPA recognized when used by a certified renovator to determine that lead-based paint is not present on wood, metal, or drywall and plaster surfaces.

