



## LEAD-BASED PAINT TESTING

Lead is a toxic metal that can have potentially harmful health effects if absorbed into the body. Lead-based paint can be found in a variety of painted surfaces coated before the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the use of lead-based paint in 1978.

With the use of X-ray fluorescence (XRF) devices, ELOS' LDEQ-certified lead risk-assessors and inspectors can quickly identify lead hazards, having performed over 10,000 inspections using this type of device.

Additionally, XRF devices can provide immediate results, eliminating the need to collect paint chip samples and send them to a laboratory. This can make projects less expensive and much more efficient.

Data from the device can then be downloaded to generate a report of samples taken.



### How Does XRF Work?

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) technology analyzes and determines what elements in the periodic table make up a specific object or sample. XRF devices work by measuring the fluorescence (or secondary) X-ray emitted from a sample when it is scanned by a primary X-ray source (the device). These devices are particularly useful in detecting lead.

The time required for a measurement will depend on the nature of the sample (wood, metal, etc.) and the levels of detection required. High percentage levels will take a few seconds, while part-per-million levels will take a few minutes.