



Standard Test Method for Volatile Content of Coatings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2369; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

^{ε1} NOTE—Paragraph 9.3.2 was editorially corrected in June 2015.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a procedure for the determination of the weight percent volatile content of solventborne and waterborne coatings. Test specimens are heated at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for 60 min.

NOTE 1—The coatings used in these round-robin studies represented air-dried, air-dried oxidizing, heat-cured baking systems, and also included multicomponent paint systems.

1.2 Sixty minutes at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ is a general purpose test method based on the precision obtained with both solventborne and waterborne coatings (see Section 9).

1.3 This test method is viable for coatings wherein one or more parts may, at ambient conditions, contain liquid coreactants that are volatile until a chemical reaction has occurred with another component of the multi-package system.

NOTE 2—Committee D01 has run round-robin studies on volatiles of multicomponent paint systems. The only change in procedure is to premix the weighed components in the correct proportions and allow the specimens to stand at room temperature for 1 h prior to placing them into the oven.

1.4 Test Method [D5095](#) for Determination of the Nonvolatile Content in Silanes, Siloxanes and Silane-Siloxane Blends Used in Masonry Water Repellent Treatments is the standard method for nonvolatile content of these types of materials.

1.5 Test Methods [D5403](#) for Volatile Content of Radiation Curable Materials is the standard method for determining nonvolatile content of radiation curable coatings, inks and adhesives.

1.6 Test Method [D6419](#) for Volatile Content of Sheet-Fed and Coldset Web Offset Printing Inks is the method of choice for these types of printing inks.

1.7 This test method may not be applicable to all types of coatings. Other procedures may be substituted with mutual agreement between the producer and the user.

NOTE 3—If unusual decomposition or degradation of the specimen occurs during heating, the actual time and temperature used to cure the coating in practice may be substituted for the time and temperature specified in this test method, subject to mutual agreement between the producer and the user. The U.S. EPA Reference Method 24 specifies $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h for coatings.

NOTE 4—Practice [D3960](#) for Determining Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Content of Paints and Related Coatings describes procedures and calculations and provides guidance on selecting test methods to determine VOC content of solventborne and waterborne coatings.

1.8 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.9 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D1193](#) Specification for Reagent Water

[D3925](#) Practice for Sampling Liquid Paints and Related Pigmented Coatings

[D3960](#) Practice for Determining Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Content of Paints and Related Coatings

[D5095](#) Test Method for Determination of the Nonvolatile Content in Silanes, Siloxanes and Silane-Siloxane Blends Used in Masonry Water Repellent Treatments

[D5403](#) Test Methods for Volatile Content of Radiation Curable Materials

[D6419](#) Test Method for Volatile Content of Sheet-Fed and Coldset Web Offset Printing Inks

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D01](#) on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D01.21](#) on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint Materials.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

E145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Forced-Ventilation Ovens

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals (Withdrawn 2009)³

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 *Other Standards:*

EPA Reference Method 24 Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Density, Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings⁴

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A designated quantity of coating specimen is weighed into an aluminum foil dish containing 3 mL of an appropriate solvent, dispersed, and heated in an oven at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for 60 min. The percent volatile is calculated from the loss in weight.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is the procedure of choice for determining volatiles in coatings for the purpose of calculating the volatile organic content in coatings under specified test conditions. The weight percent solids content (nonvolatile matter) may be determined by difference. This information is useful to the paint producer and user and to environmental interests for determining the volatiles emitted by coatings.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Analytical Balance*, capable of weighing ± 0.1 mg.

5.2 *Aluminum Foil Dishes*⁵, 58 mm in diameter by 18 mm high with a smooth (planar) bottom surface. Precondition the dishes for 30 min in an oven at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ and store in a desiccator prior to use. Use tongs or rubber gloves, or both, to handle the dishes.

5.3 *Forced Draft Oven*, Type IIA or Type IIB as specified in Specification **E145**. The oven must be operating in accordance with Specification **E145**, since it is important to have proper air flow and good temperature control to ensure good precision.

NOTE 5—Be sure the shelves are level and dampers are open.

5.4 *Syringe*, 1-mL without needle, but equipped with caps, capable of properly dispensing the coating under test, at a sufficient rate so that the specimen can be dissolved in the solvent.

NOTE 6—Disposable syringes with caps are recommended.

5.5 *Paper Clips*.

6. Reagents

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁶ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

6.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean Type II of Specification **D1193**.

6.3 *Toluene*, water or appropriate solvent.

7. Procedure

7.1 Take a representative sample of the liquid coating (each component) in accordance with Practice **D3925**. Mix thoroughly by hand before taking specimens.

7.2 For multi-component coatings, weigh each component in the proper proportion into a container that can be capped. Mix the components together thoroughly by hand before extracting specimens. Tightly close the container to prevent loss of volatile materials.

7.3 Weigh the preconditioned aluminum foil dish (see **5.2**) and record the weight to the nearest 0.1 mg (W_1). Use disposable (no talc) rubber or polyethylene gloves, tweezers or forceps to handle the dish.

7.4 To facilitate dispersing or spreading the specimen, a metal paper clip may be placed (partially unfolded) in the aluminum dish and weighed with the dish. If a paper clip is used, it must remain with the dish throughout the remainder of the procedure.

7.5 Add to the aluminum foil dish the appropriate type and amount of solvent according to **Table 1**.

7.6 Draw the coating specimen into the syringe. Remove the syringe from the specimen and then pull the plunger tip up 6 mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) in order to pull the specimen away from the neck of the syringe. Wipe the outer surface of the syringe to remove excess material and cap the syringe. Place the filled syringe on the scale and tare the scale. Use disposable (no talc) rubber or polyethylene gloves to handle the syringe.

7.7 Remove the cap and dispense from the syringe into the dish the target specimen weight as specified in **Table 1**. If solvent is used in the dish add the specimen dropwise to the solvent-containing dish. The paper clip may be used to help disperse the coating specimen in the solvent. If the material forms a lump that cannot be dispersed, discard the specimen and prepare a new one. If no solvent is used (see **Table 1**,

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

⁵ Available from Fisher, Disposable Aluminum Dishes (code 08-732-106), www.fishersci.com; McAlister Bicknell, Aluminum Weighing Dishes (code 10676-0000), www.mbcoct.com; Cole-Parmer, Disposable Aluminum Weigh Dishes (code EW-01017-44), www.coleparmer.com.

⁶ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.