



Designation: D2369 – 07

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 Department of Defense.

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 the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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
- E145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Forced-Ventilation Ovens
- E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals

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.

TABLE 1 Summary of Methods

Coating Type	Method A – One Component Waterborne	Method B – One Component Solventborne	Method C – Mult-Component Waterborne	Method D – Mult-Component Solventborne	Method E – Mult-Component >90 % Solids
Solvent Type and Amount	3 ± 1 ml water (6.2)	3 ± 1 ml solvent (6.3)	3 ± 1 ml water (6.2)	3 ± 1 ml solvent (6.3)	none
Specimen Weight	0.3 ± 0.1 g if expected result is ≤40 % volatile (≥60 % non-volatile) 0.5 ± 0.1 g if expected result is >40 % volatile (<60 % non-volatile)				see ^A
Induction Time	N/A	N/A	1 hr (see ^B)	1 hr (see ^B)	24 hr

^A Specimen weight to be representative of how the product is used (the lowest thickness which the manufacturer's literature recommends) where: Weight (g) = Thickness (mm) × 3.14 × [Dish Diameter²(mm²)/4] × Density (g/cc)/1000. For example: the appropriate specimen weight for a coating with a density of 1 g/cc placed in a 50 mm diameter dish at a thickness of 0.5 mm calculates to 1.0 g.

^B Other induction periods are used. See EPA Reference Method 24.

2.2 Other Standards:

EPA Reference Method 24 Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Density, Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings³

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 ± 5°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*, 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 ± 5°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.⁴ 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 (W₁). 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 (¼ in.) in order to pull the specimen away from the neck of the syringe. Wipe the outer surface of the syringe to remove

³ 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>.

⁴ *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.