



Designation: D 4958 – 97

Standard Test Method for Comparison of the Brush Drag of Latex Paints¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method is a standardized brushout procedure for comparing the brush drag of architectural type solvent-borne paints.

1.2 With slight modifications this test method is also applicable to solvent-borne paints.

1.3 *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:

D 1475 Test Method for Density of Liquid Coatings, Inks, and Related Products²

D 3924 Specification for Standard Environment for Conditioning and Testing Paint, Varnish, Lacquer and Related Materials²

D 3925 Practice for Sampling Liquid Paints and Related Pigmented Coatings²

D 4287 Test Method for High-Shear Viscosity Using the ICI Cone/Plate Viscometer²

D 5068 Standard Practice for Preparation of Paint Brushes for Evaluation³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions—See *Paint/Coatings Dictionary*⁴ for definition of terms used in this test method.

3.1.1 *brush-drag*—resistance encountered when applying a coating by brush.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A 2-in. (50-mm) polyester brush is used to apply the test paint on a 1.076-ft²(1000-cm²) test area. The application is

made at a spreading rate of 400 ft²/gal (9.82 m²/L) and is completed in 30 to 35 s. The degree of brush drag is rated subjectively using a series of standard descriptive terms corresponding to numerical values of 1 to 10. The rank order of a set of samples is thereby established.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 As the brush drag of a paint increases, any natural tendency on the part of the painter to overspread the paint is reduced. When all other factors are held constant, increased brush drag will result in greater film thickness with consequent improvement in durability and hiding. Conversely, sometimes it might be preferred to have a lesser degree of brush drag for easier application (that is, the amount of time and effort in applying a paint to a specific area is reduced with a lesser degree of brush drag).

5.2 This test method provides a standardized brushout procedure for the evaluation of brush drag as an alternative to customary informal ad hoc procedures. Its objective is to maximize the reliability and precision with which this characteristic may be determined.

NOTE 1—The brush drag of paints is directly related to their high-shear viscosity. There is generally good rank order agreement between results obtained by this method and Test Method D 4287. The sensitivity of this brushout method has been found sufficient to distinguish between brushabilities corresponding to high-shear viscosity differences not lower than 0.3 poise (0.03 Pa.s). Round robin data show that rank order agreement between the brushout and viscometric methods is poor when latex and solvent-borne paints are part of the same comparison group. This is the result of these two paint types having markedly different rheological properties that affect the relative perception of brush drag.⁵

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Brush*, 2-in. (50-mm) polyester filament, 2³/₄-in. (70-mm) length-out, ⁹/₁₆ in. (14 mm) thick, with a chiseled tip.

NOTE 2—All tests of a given series of paints, within or between laboratories, should be carried out with commercially identical brushes.

6.2 *Stopwatch*.

6.3 *Balance*, capable of weighing accurately to 0.1 g.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-1 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.42 on Architectural Finishes.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.02.

⁴ Available from Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology, 492 Norris-town Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422.

⁵ Supporting data are available from ASTM Headquarters. Request RR: D01-1072.