MEDIA SENSTIVITY TO TREATMENT SOLUTIONS USING PAPER POINTS

This proposed sensitivity test gives an indication whether the solvent of the chosen treatment solution is likely to cause the present media to dissolve. More procedures for pre-treatment tests regarding sensitivity to treatment solutions are extensively discussed in the *Paper Conservation Catalog, Catherine I. Maynor ed., American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Book and Paper Group, 1994, Chapter 10, sub-chapter 10.4 Spot Tests, p. 60-68.*

Chemicals

- Solvent 1 (e.g. demineralised water)
- If required solvent 2 (e.g. Ethanol)

Materials and equipment

- 2 small glass beakers with solvents
- absorbent paper points
- blotting paper
- tweezers
- inert plastic sheet (e.g. Melinex® polyester film)
- timer

Procedure

- Wetting the absorbent paper point

- Dip the tip of the absorbent paper point into one solvent
- Reduce extensive solvent from the paper point by blotting it off on filter paper

- Application

- Place object on a clean, inert support (e.g. Melinex® polyester film)
- Chose a representative area within the present media
- Place the humid absorbent paper point on the middle of an ink line
- Cover it with a sheet of plastic (e.g. Melinex® polyester film)
- Press moderately with a finger for some time (Ca. 30 seconds)
- remove the plastic and the absorbent paper point

- Interpretation

- Put the absorbent paper point on a white support (e.g. filter paper)
- Check the colour - use a microscope or a magnifier
- If the absorbent paper point is discoloured, a component of the media dissolved and caused the dye / pigment to diffuse into the absorbent paper point

Repeat for each solvent and each media present

Availability

Absorbent paper points are available at dental supplies (search the internet for the closest supplier). They are used by dentists during root canal treatments for desiccation or drying. Absorbent paper points are highly absorbent, hand rolled, sterile. They are available in different conventional sizes and quite cheap.

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 May 2007

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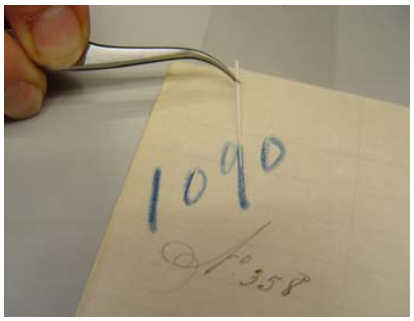
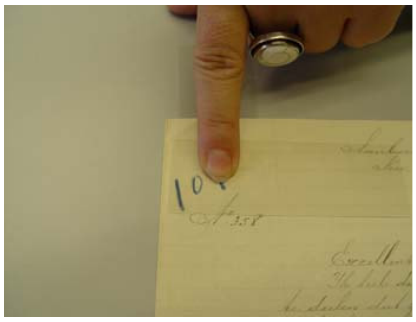
Dip the tip of a paper point into the solvent, use tweezers



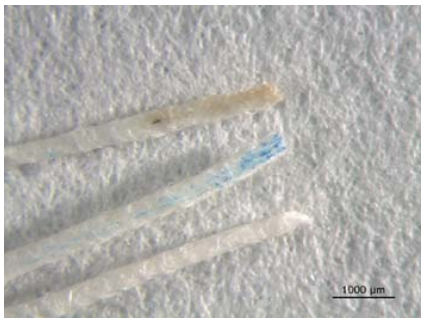
Place the top of the paper point on the testing zone

Cover the area with a piece of inert plastic foil



Apply gentle pressure for ca. 30s

Test all different media present



Examine the paper points with a microscope or magnifier

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