

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **CLOR-N-SOIL®**

- 1) What are possible interferences for the Clor-N-Soil test kits?**
- 2) Will inorganic chloride from road salt or seawater cause an interference?**
- 3) Can Clor-N-Soil be used on any type of soil?**
- 4) Can the Clor-N-Soil kits be used on soil containing Speedy Dry, wood pulp or other absorbents?**
- 5) Can Clor-N-Soil be used to test caulking, metal shavings or concrete?**
- 6) Does moisture affect the accuracy of the test?**
- 7) What is the shelf life of the Clor-N-Soil kits?**
- 8) Can kits be used past their expiration date?**
- 9) How should the kits be stored?**
- 10) Can a frozen kit be used?**
- 11) There are salt crystals around the cap or on the box - is it okay to use the kit?**

**1) What are possible interferences for the Clor-N-Soil test kits?**

The Clor-N-Soil test method determines PCB content by chlorine associated with the PCB molecule. The amount of chlorine is directly proportional to the amount of PCB in a sample, but other chlorinated organics such as chlorinated solvents, pesticides and herbicides may cause false positive results.

**2) Will inorganic chloride from road salt or seawater cause an interference?**

No. The extraction method of the Clor-N-Soil kits removes any inorganic chloride from the sample.

**3) Can Clor-N-Soil be used on any type of soil?**

Yes, but heavy clay soils may absorb more of the extract solvent making it difficult to recover the full 5 ml required to process the test. To release more of the liquid from the soil, press down on the soil using the plunger from the syringe assembly, or bounce the tube on a flat surface to get the soil to compact in the tube and release more of the liquid.

**4) Can the Clor-N-Soil kits be used on soil containing Speedy Dry, wood pulp or other absorbents?**

No. Any material that is designed to absorb liquids will soak up most, or all, of the extract solution making it impossible to recover enough liquid to run the test.

**5) Can Clor-N-Soil be used to test caulking, metal shavings or concrete?**

No. The Clor-N-Soil test method is designed specifically for soil testing. Particle size/surface area, weight, absorbency of the material, and interference from other possible chlorinated organics in the material are important considerations for using the Clor-N-Soil kits. Further, the Clor-N-Soil extraction chemistry may not be able to adequately solvate the matrix in order to extract the PCBs.

**6) Does moisture affect the accuracy of the test?**

The test includes a drying column that removes both moisture and inorganic chlorides (i.e. road salt, seawater) from the sample. However, the main concern for wet soil is the sample weight. If a significant portion of the sample weight is water, this could cause an underestimation of the PCB content.

**7) What is the shelf life of the Clor-N-Soil kits?**

The kits have a one year shelf life. The expiration date is printed on the side of each kit box.

**(NOTE:** Disregard any expiration date printed on the foil bag inside the shipping carton. The date on the foil bag refers only to the bag, it has nothing to do with the kits.)

**8) Can kits be used past their expiration date?**

The indicator reagent degrades over time and the kits lose the ability to make the purple color change. False positive reporting is possible with expired kits.

**9) How should the kits be stored?**

The Clor-N-Soil kits do not require special storage (i.e. refrigeration) but we recommend storing the kits in a cool, dry place. **IMPORTANT:** Keep kits out of excessive heat! The kits should never be kept near heating units or in vehicles during summer months. Heat in excess of 100F can destroy the chemistry of the kits in a matter of days. (False positives will result) If the kits must be kept in vehicles, they should be kept cool in an insulated container with an ice pack, as needed.

**10) Can a frozen kit be used?**

Freezing doesn't affect the quality of the chemistry, but frozen kits should be thawed thoroughly and brought to room temperature before using. Very cold temperatures can slow the chemical reactions requiring longer wait times for each step to achieve the proper results.

**11) There are salt crystals around the cap or on the box - is it okay to use the kit?**

No. This indicates that the clear buffer solution in the white capped tube has leaked. This is usually caused by pressure changes in an airplane cargo hold during shipping. The buffer solution should be approximately ½ inch above the 5 ml line embossed on the tube. If the tube does not contain the proper amount of buffer solution, do not use the tests. Hold the kit aside and contact Dexsil for a replacement kit.