

# Oil Test Paper

**for the rapid determination of oil in water and/or soil**

## **Colour reaction:**

The light blue paper turns dark blue on contact with hydrocarbons, particularly gasoline, heating oil, lubricating oil, etc.

## **Method of Application:**

### **a) Determination of oil in water:**

Apply a drop of the water to be tested to the test paper or move the paper back and forth a few times in the test solution. In the presence of oil, blue discolourations appear. The intensity and size of the blue spots are indicative of the quantity of oil contained in the test solution. Water that is **free of oil** will neither moisten nor discolour the paper.

### **b) Determination of oil in soil:**

Press the paper against the soil to be tested and rinse thereafter with clear water. Colour reaction takes place as described above. In the presence of larger quantities of oil, the latter will penetrate through the paper, rendering rinsing superfluous.

## **Limit of sensitivity:**

The sensitivity of the test paper is largely dependent upon the solubility of the hydrocarbons. By moving the test paper back and forth a few times at the surface of the water, the following values can be detected:

Substance	Colour Reaction	
	lower limit (mg/l of water)	clearly detectable (mg/l of water)
Petroleum ether (B.P. 40-80 °C)	250	400
Gasoline (high octane)	10	25
Heating oil	5	10
Lubricating oil	1	5

When testing volatile substances, the colour reaction must be evaluated immediately, because it fades rapidly.

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