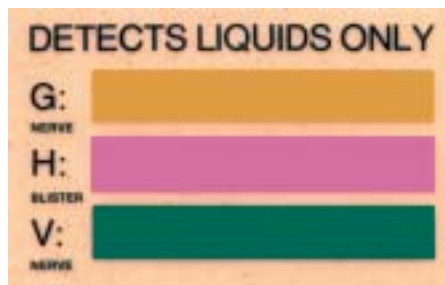


Ineffectiveness of M8 and M9 Papers For Non-Military Use

M8 and M9 papers have been used by the military for years to detect G and V nerve and H blister agents in the field under combat conditions. It is a presumptive test and produces many false positives when used in non-battlefield conditions.

M8 paper contains compounds that produce a color change on light tan paper when the paper is dipped or wiped on a contaminated surface. G nerve agents produce a yellow-brown, V nerve agents produce a dark green and H blister agents produce a red-pink color.



The test is presumptive in that most battlefield conditions are expected to occur in jungle, woods or open field. Any agent that reacts is assumed to be a

chemical weapon agent since compounds that cause false positive results are not expected to be found in “natural” areas.

M8 Paper is less reliable in urban settings where more man-made compounds are located. It is even less reliable when used to test bulk material of unknown identity. M9 paper reacts to more false positives and does not respond to chemical agents if the paper is wet.

The HazCat Chemical Weapons Kit can differentiate interfering compounds from the true nerve and blister agents M8 and M9 papers are designed to warn of. Using the HazCat Chemical Weapons Kit provides much more accurate identification, fewer false positive results and eliminates the need to send many samples to a laboratory for confirmation.

Haztech Systems has tested several commonly available compounds to determine false positive and negative results when tested with M8 Paper. The results are listed in the table below. Click on the result to view an image of the test result. The HazCat Chemical Weapons Kit can differentiate true chemical weapon agents from all of these tested materials.



M8 Paper

M8 Paper is used by the military to detect nerve and blister agents in the field. It is a presumptive test intended for field use. M8 Paper does not produce accurate results when exposed to several common substances. The HazCat Chemical Warfare Agents Identification System detects nerve, blister and mustard agents without the cross sensitivities demonstrated by M8 Paper. When used with the HazCat Chemical Identification System all of these compounds can be identified or classified accurately. The paper is blotted on a suspected liquid agent and observed for a change in color.

