HAWK
Research Laboratories

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE
MIL THICKNESS GAUGE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Paint failures are almost always the result of *insufficient paint film*. This can be the primer or topcoat, or a combination of both. When the paint film is too thin, the coverage is poor and the loss of hiding and essential protective characteristics are the result. The end result is generally a redo, which is lost time and money.

WHERE TO MONITOR

Proper mil thickness is critical on any coated surface. On a bathtub, because of the exposure to water, it is imperative to ensure that the mil thickness of both the primer and topcoat meet the specifications rated for those products.

The wet film thickness for ULTRAGRIP 4000 is 4-5 mils
The wet film thickness for GLAS-TECH 9000 is 5-7 mils

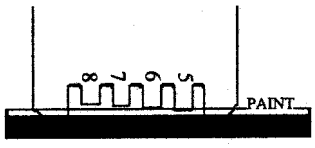
Problem areas on a bathtub have been around the drain and bottom, the edges along the tub where it meets the tile, along the outside floor, and the overflow area. Always make sure to monitor these areas with the mil thickness gauge to avoid peeling activity, *and the resultant service calls*.

HOW TO USE THE GAUGE

The wallet size gauge is a precision-made tool designed for on-the-job measurements of the wet film thickness of applied coatings. The gauge is versatile as it can measure with a relativity small footprint, wet paints on objects of practically any size and shape.

Select the side of the gauge that falls in the range of mils you are seeking to measure. Place the gauge on the wet film at a 90° angle. Press into film gently, without wiggling (when measuring the topcoat, be careful not to press down into the primer, which can add false mils). Withdraw and note the deepest tooth or notch having paint on it and the next highest tooth that is not coated.

The wet film thickness lies between these two readings. (See diagram)



Generally the wet paint will fill in any slight marks the gauge might leave. However, you may spray some more paint over the spot to level it out.

Clean the gauge with any suitable solvent after use. Do not leave the gauge immersed in solvent.