

The Pull-Off Adhesion Series

5. To Cut or Not to Cut?

When it comes to the pull-off adhesion test method, one of the questions most often asked is whether the coating should be cut around the dolly prior to testing, or whether it should remain uncut.

This depends on your customer, and the simple answer is to refer back to the test method or standard that you are working to. If the standard doesn't say, then the choice is for the client and the contractor to determine – but note in your report whether you have cut or not, and be sure all adhesion tests are carried out in the same way.

If you are required to cut around the dolly then, typically, once the adhesive has fully cured, using a knife or dolly cutter, which are usually supplied with the gauge, carefully and safely cut the coating all the way down to the substrate.

Please note that the dolly should not be used as a stabilising peg for the cutter or knife, as any undue shear stress can increase the chance of a glue failure during the pull test, or could cause the coating to fail prematurely.

To avoid inducing any shear stress, it is possible to cut before the dolly is stuck down. Cutting can be made easier by using a template made of plywood or other suitable material. In fact, tests have shown that on average, pull-off values are 14% higher when the coating is cut before the dolly is stuck down, compared to cuts made after.

This video is part of a series on pull-off adhesion testing. Click on any one of the titles on-screen to watch another video in the series.

For more information and training on the pull-off adhesion method, or Elcometer's range of pull-off adhesion testers, visit our website.