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Durometer (Shore A) Testing on Sheet Rubber. **(The following procedures are based on ASTM standard D2240.)**

Readings below 10/A may be inexact and should not be reported for some materials. Readings above 90/A should be made on a Type D Durometer gauge.

The surface of the sample to be tested needs to be clean and smooth. The sample should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) in thickness. Thinner materials can be stacked to obtain the minimum thickness (DO NOT GLUE). Such results may not agree exactly with those of a solid specimen. The sample should be large enough so that the indenter is at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) from the edge. The surface of the specimen shall be flat over a sufficient area to permit the presser foot to contact the specimen over an area having a radius of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) from the indenter point. The temperature of the specimen should be 73.4°F. $\pm$ 3.6°F. (23°C $\pm$ 2°C.) The specimen should rest at this temperature for at least one hour prior to testing, as the properties of most materials change with temperature.

Place the specimen on a hard, horizontal surface. Set the ancillary hand on the durometer below 5 points on the dial. Hold the durometer vertically with the point of the indenter at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) from the edge. Apply the presser foot to the specimen as rapidly as possible without shock, keeping the foot parallel to the surface of the specimen. Apply just sufficient force to obtain firm contact between the presser foot and the specimen. Hold for 1 or 2 seconds, the maximum reading can be obtained from the ancillary hand. If other than a maximum reading is needed, hold the durometer in place without motion and obtain the reading after the required interval. Make 5 tests at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) apart and use the average value.