

PLEXIGLAS® SHEET: Handling and Maintenance

ACRYLIC SHEET

CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS: Cleaning Directions

Washing

Wash Plexiglas® sheet with a mild soap or detergent and a lukewarm water solution. Use a clean soft cloth or sponge and as much solution as possible. Rinse well. Dry by blotting with a damp cloth or chamois.

To remove tar, grease, paint, etc., use a good grade of naphtha or kerosene. Users of these solvents should become familiar with their properties to handle them safely.

Do not use: Window cleaning fluids, scouring compounds, gritty cloths, leaded or ethyl gasoline or solvents such as alcohol, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, etc.

Polishing

Apply a thin, even coat of a good grade of automobile paste wax (not a cleaner-wax combination) with a soft clean cloth to protect the surface of the Plexiglas® sheet and maintain its luster. Buff lightly with a clean cotton flannel or jersey cloth. After polishing, wipe with a clean damp cloth to ground any electro-static charges which may attract dust particles.

Cleaning Contaminations

Masking Paper Adhesive: Use a hydrocarbon solvent such as VM&P naphtha, kerosene, or mineral spirits. Follow with a detergent-water wash and a CLEAN water* rinse..

Water-soluble Contaminants: Wash with a detergent-water solution followed by a fresh water* rinse.

Fingerprints: Wipe with soft CLEAN cloth lightly dampened with isopropyl alcohol. Avoid contact with the edges of the sheet since they may be areas of high stress.

Oil-soluble Contaminants: Use a hydrocarbon solvent such as VM&P naphtha, kerosene, or mineral spirits. Follow with a detergent-water wash and a CLEAN water* rinse.

Spray-masking Compounds: Wipe the area with a damp synthetic sponge then wipe the surface with VM&P naphtha.

Grease-forming Compounds: Wash with kerosene or mineral spirits. Followed by washing with a detergent-water solution and a CLEAN water* rinse.

Silicone Oils and Greases Avoid contact completely: Once contaminated with silicones, Plexiglas® sheet is virtually impossible to clean.

***Note:** When a clean water rinse is specified, use distilled or deionized water to prevent water spotting which may adversely affect adhesion when painting Plexiglas® sheet.

Scratch Removal

Scratch removal should only be used if the surface imperfections are too deep to be removed by light buffing and the resulting optical distortion can be tolerated. Test to see if sanding is required. Rub a fingernail along the scratch and if it is felt, then sanding is required.

Use the finest sandpaper that will remove the imperfections. Coarse paper will only create more scratches. Open coat sandpaper should be used. Try using 600 grit sandpaper wrapped around a rubber padded sanding block. Sand over the scratch using increasingly larger areas of sanding.

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If the scratch is not removed step down to 400 grit. The sanding should be done in directions 30 degrees apart to produce a diamond pattern. After sanding and stepping down to 600 grit, polish the acrylic.

The following precautions should be observed:

Do not use disc or belt sanders dry. Wet sanders are preferred but dry orbital sanders can be used with care. With mechanical sanders, water or oil coolants are desirable. Heat generation during the sanding operation may degrade the physical properties of the sheet.

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