

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.

800 523-7500

plexiglas.com

PLEXIGLAS® SHEET: Handling and Maintenance

ACRYLIC SHEET

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.

REMOVING DRIED MASKING PAPER

It may be difficult to remove dried masking paper from Plexiglas® sheet that has been exposed outdoors or has been stored for long periods of time, particularly under conditions of heat or high humidity. When the sheet is to be thermoformed and the masking paper is only moderately tight, flash heating the sheet for 60 seconds at 360°F will loosen the paper enough for easy stripping in most cases. In more stubborn cases, we recommend a solution called "Cyclone" sold by Duron Company, Philadelphia, PA. In order to remove "baked on" masking paper from Plexiglas, we suggest using "Cyclone" full strength. However, "Cyclone" can be diluted by adding water (25% water - 75% Cyclone) for less extreme cases. Thoroughly soak the masking paper with the solution and allow 10 minutes for it to penetrate the masking paper adhesive or until the masking paper adhesive softens and can be peeled away.

For more difficult masking removal make a scraper using Plexiglas only. Using Plexiglas as a scraper will do little harm to the surface being scraped. However, make sure that all surfaces being scraped are kept dirt-free. Small areas of adhesive residue are removed by using isopropyl alcohol and "Cyclone" mixed on a soft cloth. Then wash with water. "Cyclone" is a highly concentrated degreasing and cleaning agent. In addition to the supplier's instructions, use impermeable gloves, avoid skin contact and use adequate ventilation. "Cyclone" should be available through any Duron store. It is a non-combustible solution and should be used whenever possible where masking paper removal is a problem.

Only use the solutions that are listed below as a last resort if "Cyclone" is not available.

1. Kerosene - Ultrasene (Highly Refined Only)
2. Turpentine - Steam Distilled Only
3. Hexane - use only "iso-hexanes" which contain minimal amounts of "normal" isomer.

Because of crazing, toxicity, flammability, etc., we recommend extreme caution when using the above solvents. Obtain safety and use information from the suppliers. Follow instructions carefully.

Source of Supply for "Cyclone"

Duron Company
5000 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
215-483-1220

The statements, technical information and recommendations obtained herein are believed to be accurate as of the date hereof. Since the conditions and methods of use of the product and of the information referred to herein are beyond our control, Altuglas International/Arkema expressly disclaims any and all liability. NO WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WARRANTY OR MERCHANTABILITY, OR ANY OTHER WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IS MADE CONCERNING THE GOODS DESCRIBED OR THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREIN.

The information provided herein relates only to the specific product designated and may not be applicable when such product is used in combination with other materials or in any process. The user should thoroughly test any application before commercialization. Nothing contained herein should be construed as an inducement to infringe any patent, and the user is advised to take appropriate steps to be sure that any proposed use of the product will not result in patent infringement. See MSDS for Health & Safety Considerations. Altuglas® and Plexiglas® are registered trademarks of Arkema. ©2013 Arkema Inc. All rights reserved. Rev. 5/13

800 523-7500

plexiglas.com

ALTUGLAS
INTERNATIONAL
ARKEMA GROUP

PLEXIGLAS
BY ARKEMA