General Care and Best Practices

Each location may have several different types of materials in use. Please be sure know exactly what materials your working with to prevent unnecessary damage.

Matthews Paint

The maintenance and care of a painted or clear coated polyurethane surface would utilize the basic commercially available non-abrasive cleaners and polishes recommended for finishes exposed to the environment.

It is recommended to wait at least 30 days after painting before any cleaning or polishing is attempted.

A mild detergent and water solution with soft cloth toweling is often sufficient to remove most dirt followed with a thorough clean water rinse.

Application of polish (liquid or paste) should be done with a wet soft cloth covered sponge and buffed with a soft flannel cloth. This is best accomplished in the cooler hours of the day avoiding direct sunlight if possible. Use of polish over satin finishes may result in an increase to the gloss level.

Plexiglas (Acrylic)

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 tetra-chloride, 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 Contamination's

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 and 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 deter- gent-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.

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.

Sintra(Graphic material)

Small, shallow scratches may be removed by heating the Sintra surface with a heat gun or industrial dryer. Care must be used when heating the sheet, as too much heat will cause warping or bubbling. Move the heating unit across the surface until it is raised. This method works every time.

Tempered Glass

Use a wash solution that includes a mild soap or detergent, or a slightly acidic cleaning solution. *DO NOT use any additives that contain hydrofluoric acid or have the possibility of forming hydrofluoric acid.* Hydrofluoric acid will quickly and permanently damage the glass surface. *DO NOT use harsh cleaners, abrasives or alkaline materials.*

Use clean, grit free cloths, together with the wash solution, to clean the glass. Sufficient wash solution should be used to ensure that debris can be removed without causing abrasion related glass damage. Remember, the wash solution is not only a solvent for cleaning dirty glass, but it also acts as a lubricant to "float" loose debris off the glass surface. Care must be taken to ensure that gritty dirt particles picked up by the cloth do not scratch the glass.

For best results, clean the glass beginning at the top and working down.

Immediately follow the washing with liberal amounts of clean rinse water.

Promptly remove excess rinse water with a clean, good quality squeegee. Squeegees must be in good condition, clean and undamaged. Specifically, any debris must be removed from the squeegee to prevent possible glass damage.

Remove grease and glazing materials with commercial solvents such as xylene, toluene, Leptyne®, turpentine, mineral spirits or naptha. Immediately follow with a normal wash and rinse as described above. Be careful not to damage glazing or insulating glass unit seals by excess application of strong solvents.