

Glass Cleaning Procedures For Commercial and Residential Clients



Cleaning Procedure for Non-Coated Glass Surfaces

Caution: This cleaning procedure is not acceptable for use with #1 or #4 surface coatings. Abrasive cleaners are not to be used with exterior surface coatings.

The following is the accepted glass cleaning procedure for removal of stubborn surface contaminants on glass surfaces when typical household glass cleaners do not work. The cleaning materials below should only be used if typical household cleaners (Windex, IPA/Water) have not removed the residue/dirt/stain.

ACCEPTABLE CLEANING MATERIALS FOR STUBBORN RESIDUE:

1. Cerium Oxide (comes in a powder form, mix into a paste with water, roughly 1 to 1 by volume). Available through Minnesota Lapidary Supply Corporation (612-872-7211) or local glass shop.
2. Soft Scrub non-bleach cleaner.
3. Crest Toothpaste (white paste not gel).
4. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Pads.
5. 3M Light Duty Scouring Pads.
6. Bar Keepers Friend.

CLEANING PROCESS:

1. Initially spray the glass with the standard cleaning solution such as Windex, vinegar/water, isopropyl alcohol/water or Rain-X Glass Cleaner
2. Wipe dry using a paper towel. If possible use the Sellars® shop paper towel available in the automotive departments at Target, or at the local hardware store. Unlike common paper towels, these towels do not leave a residue on the glass.
3. All of the cleaners listed above have a light abrasive which will mechanically remove the stubborn residue from the glass, without scratching the glass.

4. Spread the light abrasive cleaner onto a moist paper towel, and apply to the glass. Rub in a circular motion over the area with the stubborn stain. It works best to clean a 2-foot by 2-foot foot area at a time. Depending on the stubbornness of the residue, more than one application of the mild abrasive cleaner may be required. After cleaning with the mild abrasive cleaner, wipe the area with tap water. It may take additional cleaning with water to remove the residue left from the mild abrasive cleaner.
5. Do a final cleaning with soap and water. of that product, nor any soundness against weather intrusion.

Cleaning Procedure for Glass With Exterior Surface Coatings

Protect the exterior surface coating to eliminate stains and residue on the glass. Abrasive cleaners cannot be used as they can result in damage to the coating. The following steps should be used for cleaning of these coatings.

When coated glass is installed in a window in the field, normal care should be taken to reduce the opportunity for building materials (i.e., stucco, paints, stains, etc.) used at the job site from contacting the glass surfaces. Thick deposits or layers of these materials will not be removed by the photocatalytic action of coated glass. The use of plastic sheeting or polymer films (like Preserve®) can provide protection to the glass from standard construction materials.

No special cleaning requirements are necessary to clean coated glass. Standard cleaning solutions such as a soap solution with clean water or standard window cleaning products can be used. If a squeegee is used to clean the glass, it should not have any metal edges exposed as they could scratch the coating or glass itself. Metal blades/razor blades should not be used. The use of excessive force when cleaning with paper towels or rags could result in scratching of the coatings. Abrasive cleaners such as cerium oxide, soft scrub, and Bar Keepers Friend should never be used on the coated glass.

FOR REMOVAL OF STUBBORN STAINS AND RESIDUE FROM COATED GLASS:

If standard window cleaning solutions such as soap and water or Windex do not remove the residue, the following solutions can be used to clean NEAT® and i81™ coating surfaces.

Acetone

Vinegar

Mineral Spirits

Isopropyl Alcohol and water (50/50 concentration)

Zip Strip Paint Remover

3M Safest Stripper

