

Glass Cleaning and Maintenance Recommendations

All of Viracon's architectural glass products require routine cleaning to prevent the build-up of potentially harmful mineral deposits and airborne contaminants.

During the construction period, the glass may become more heavily soiled than at any other time. Special care should be taken at the initial cleaning to make certain the glass surface will not be damaged because of heavy surface contamination. The first time the glass is cleaned after building construction or at any time during the construction phase, the glass surface should first be rinsed with clean water. This is done to remove any surface contamination that may be present which could potentially scratch the glass during the cleaning process. The glass should be cleaned with a soft, clean, grit-free cloth and a mild, non-abrasive, non-alkaline cleaning solution. The glass should be rinsed immediately with clean water and excess water should be removed from glass surfaces with a squeegee.

For routine cleaning, use a commercial window washing solution or mild soap and water. Uniformly spray or apply the cleaning solution with a soft, grit-free, cloth sponge or pad and rinse thoroughly. The glass surface should then be wiped dry with a clean grit-free cloth or squeegeed dry. Care should be taken to ensure that metal does not come in contact with the glass surface and that no abrasive particles are trapped between the glass and cleansing materials. Razor blades, scrapers, putty knives and metal parts of glazing tools can scratch glass surfaces and should not be used to clean glass.

Suggested Cleaners: We recommend mild, non-abrasive, non-alkaline cleaning solutions. The following have been used successfully in the past:

- Basic H® Classic
- Formula 409® Glass & Surface Cleaner
- Sparkle Glass Cleaner
- Windex® Original Glass Cleaner

Additional Considerations

In all cases when cleaning glass, extreme care should be taken to ensure that no abrasive particles are trapped between the glass and cleaning materials.

Site Conditions:

Concrete or mortar slurry that runs down (or is splashed on) glass can be especially damaging and should be washed off as soon as possible. It is extremely alkaline and will eventually etch the glass surface. Begin by soaking the surfaces with a water and soap solution to loosen mortar. Next, flush as much of the grit as possible with a spray of clean water. Reapply the window washing solution and use a squeegee or grit-free cloth. It is strongly recommended that window washers clean a small area or one window, then stop and examine the surface for any damage to the glass.

Cup Marks: Vacuum cups are utilized to move and install large glass lites. The cups are made of silicone or rubber and can transfer small amounts of these materials onto the glass surface. The appearance of cup marks can be exacerbated by accumulation of dust and debris from the construction process. Glass protection and/or routine cleaning during the construction process will help to minimize this effect. Over the course of time, cup marks normally fade away due to repeated cleanings and exposure to the environment. Manually removing cup marks is challenging. Utilize a lambswool pad with cerium oxide on a cordless drill.

Disinfecting: In cases where a disinfecting cleaning product is needed, the glass can be wiped with a soft, clean, grit-free cloth and a 70% isopropyl alcohol solution. The solution should not be allowed to pool along the edges of the glass and should be rinsed or wiped off.

Product Considerations

RoomSide® Low-E: No special cleaning requirements are necessary to clean Viracon's RoomSide® Low-E coated glass.

Silicone: Excess silicone on the glass face can be removed. If the glass is dirty, flush off the grit particulates with a spray of clean water. Remove as much of the silicone as possible from the glass without damaging the surface. A thin film of silicone may remain on the face of the glass. Once the silicone is thin enough, soak it with an isopropyl alcohol solution and use 4 ought steel wool (0000) to remove the remainder.

Translucent Enamel: Translucent enamel colors are V1092 Simulated Acid Etch, V1093 Simulated Sandblast, V1094 Fog Gray and DigitalDistinctions Simulated Etch. The surface of translucent enamel is rougher than a normal glass surface, so extra care should be taken during installation to prevent contaminants or sealants from begriming the glass. Wear clean glass handling gloves when handling this product. Use caution when working with sealants because liquid sealants that penetrate the porous surface may become difficult to remove once cured. The contractor should be aware of the rough surface so appropriate precautions can be taken by the other trades.

First Surface Etch or Enamel: Dirt, smog, and other atmospheric conditions can impact the appearance of first surface products with etch or enamels. This effect, known as soiling, may alter the appearance. Extra care should be taken to clean these products every 6 months, or more often for harsher soiling environments. First surface products can be cleaned with one of the suggested cleaners to reduce appearance change. Avoid hydrofluoric acid cleaners.

