

Cleaning Procedures

for Glass Surfaces

Glass plays a major role in providing natural daylight, views of the surroundings, thermal comfort and design aesthetics. Therefore, it must be properly cleaned as dirt appears and as a part of routine maintenance in order to maintain visual and aesthetic clarity.

The glass industry takes extreme care to avoid glass scratches by protecting all glass surfaces during glass manufacturing and fabrication, as well as during all shipping and handling required to deliver the glass to the end user. A large percentage of damaged glass results from non-glass trades working near glass (e.g. painters, landscapers, carpenters, etc.). Splashing material onto the glass, cleaning the glass incorrectly and leaning tools against the glass can cause permanent damage.

Before proceeding with cleaning, always determine whether the glass is clear, tinted or reflective. If the surface is reflective or tinted, extra care must be taken. On a reflective glass surface, damage is more noticeable, and scratches can result in coating removal and a visible change in light transmittance. Cleaning tinted and reflective glass surfaces in direct sunlight should be avoided.

PRO TIP: Using Razor Blades

One of the common mistakes made when cleaning glass is use of razor blades or other scrapers. Using 2 inch and larger blades to scrape a window clean carries a large probability for causing irreparable damage to glass.

When paint or other construction materials cannot be removed with normal cleaning procedures, a new 1" razor blade may need to be used (only on non-coated glass surfaces). The razor blade should be used on small spots and in one direction only and the glass surface should be lubricated with soap and water.

Scraping should only be done in one direction.

The Glass Association of North America recommends the following procedures for properly cleaning glass surfaces

- ▶ *Begin with soaking the glass surfaces with clean water and soap solution to loosen dirt or debris.*
- ▶ *Using a mild, non-abrasive window washing solution, apply the solution to the glass surfaces with a brush, strip washer or other non-abrasive applicator.*
- ▶ *A squeegee should be used immediately following the application of the cleaning solution to remove it from the glass surface. Ensure that no metal parts of the cleaning equipment touch the glass surface and that no abrasive particles are trapped between the glass and the cleaning materials.*
- ▶ *All water and cleaning solution residue should be dried from window gaskets, sealants and frames to avoid the potential for deterioration.*

It is recommended that window washers clean a small area or one window, then stop and examine the surface for any damage to the glass. The ability to detect certain surface damage may vary greatly with the lighting conditions, so ensure there is proper lighting (i.e. no dark/gray sky or low sun).

SPECIAL CLEANING

For unusually hard to remove contaminants such as crayons, wax, grease, markers and adhesives, special cleaners may be used to spot clean the glass. Denatured alcohol and isopropyl alcohol work on a variety of contaminants. For harder to remove contaminants such as crayons and markers, commercially available cleaners such as Goo Gone® and Goof Off® work well. After spot cleaning, the full glass surface should be cleaned as referenced above.

Contact your All Weather at Home account manager for additional information on glass and glazing applications.