

Recommendations for

Removal of Air Dry Materials

from surfaces of coil coated finish coats

AkzoNobel



Removal of undesirable materials from the surface of coil coated, factory-finished bake enamels should always be limited to mild soapy water or mild cleaners such as Fantastic, followed by a clean water rinse.

However, it is recognized that occasionally problems occur, such as overspray from air-dry painting in the area, graffiti, or other incidental problems. Since these bake enamels are composed of resins and pigments which can be adversely affected by strong chemicals, extreme care should be exercised in any removal activities.

It is very important that all cleaners and solvents, as listed below in Steps A through D, be first tested on a less visible area, to determine if there are any potentially negative effects of the cleaning process.

Cleaning should not be attempted if there is any damage, such as abrasion, scuffing, dulling, burnishing, etc., done to the film in the test area.

The following sequential procedures are suggested:

- a.) Unless the “condition” is clearly undesirable, it is often best to do nothing at all. This is often the case with light, unintentional, overspray; it will probably be removed by the elements in a relatively short period of time.
- b.) If, however, removal is deemed necessary, first try washing with mild soapy water or a mild household cleaner such as Fantastic. Sometimes the use of a minimally abrasive Teflon-type pad gives just enough physical action to succeed.

Please note: Repeated rubbing with abrasive cleaners and/or pads is likely to result in a scuffed surface, which will not only be unsightly, but will also decrease the service life of the factory finish and void warranty coverage.

- c.) If Step B fails to address the problem in a satisfactory manner, a slightly more aggressive approach would be to wipe the surface with either mineral spirits or VM&P Naphtha. These solvents are often used in air-dry paints and may produce desirable results. Mineral spirits evaporates slowly, and will work best in warm weather on warm metal. VM&P Naphtha evaporates rapidly, and will work best in cool weather on cool metal.
- d.) If steps B and C have not produced satisfactory results, more aggressive aromatic solvents, such as xylene (“xylol” or “m-xylene”) or toluene (“toluol”) may be used very carefully, being sure to limit the amount of solvent to the minimum necessary to dampen a cloth and the time of exposure to 10-15 seconds or less, on any given area. Xylene has a moderate evaporation rate and is best suited for warm metal in warm weather. Toluene evaporates faster, and is better suited for cool weather on cool metal. Note: Stronger solvents, such as any type of ketone, should never be used to clean factory finishes – damage to the coating is extremely likely to occur and will void any warranty coverage.

The longer that the factory applied, baked enamel surface has been in service, the more susceptible it will be to damage caused by procedures designed to remove undesirable deposits from its surface. It is therefore important that all cleaners and solvents be first tested on a less visible area, to determine the potential effects of cleaning.

Cleaning should not be undertaken if there is any damage, such as abrasion, scuffing, dulling, burnishing, etc., done to the film. Such damage automatically voids warranty coverage. Also, the older the original surface, the greater will be the likelihood that the “cleaned” area will result in a somewhat different appearance, due to the removal of dirt and natural degradation materials from the cleaned area.

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