

Cleaning Coil Coatings



Coil Coatings present a relatively non-adherent, inert surface to airborne soil. If needed, a variety of methods for removal of surface deposits is available. However, note these precautions: Do not use wire brushes, steel wool, sandpaper, abrasives or other similar cleaning tools which will mechanically abrade the coating surface. Some of the cleaning agents listed below should be tested in an inconspicuous area before use on a large scale. Always test a small area first.

HOT OR COLD DETERGENT SOLUTIONS: A 5% solution in water of commonly used commercial and industrial detergents will not have any deleterious effect on a Coil surface. These solutions should be followed by an adequate rinse of water. Use cloth, sponges or a soft bristle brush for application. Cleaning should be done on the shaded side of the building or, ideally, on a mild, cloudy day.

SOLVENTS: Most organic solvents are flammable and/or toxic, and must be handled accordingly. Keep away from open flames, sparks and electric motors. Use adequate ventilation, protective clothing and goggles. Remove non-water soluble deposits (tar, grease, oil paint, graffiti, etc.) from Coil surfaces using these solvents with caution:

Alcohols

- Denatured alcohol (ethanol)
- Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol
- Methanol (wood alcohol)

Petroleum Solvents

- VM&P naphtha
- Mineral spirits
- Turpentine (wood or gum spirits)

Aromatic Solvents

- Xylol (xylene)
- Toluol (toluene)

These solvents should be used with caution on a Coil surfaces.

Limit contact to five minutes. Test a small area first.

Ketones, Esters, Lacquer Thinner

- Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)
- Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK)
- Ethyl acetate (nail polish remover)
- Lacquer thinner

These solvents should be used with great caution on a Coil surface. Limit contact to one minute. Test a small area first.

Panel manufacturer and coating supplier are not responsible for damage from unrestricted use of these.

Acetone/Paint Remover

Do not use acetone or paint remover on Coil surfaces.

CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS:

- Sodium hypochlorite solution (laundry bleach, Clorox)
- Hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid)
- Oxalic acid
- Acetic acid (vinegar)

Hydrochloric acid (10% muriatic acid), diluted with ten volumes of water, may assist in removing rust or alkali mortar stains from Coil surfaces. Limit contact to five minutes.

Caution: Acid solutions are corrosive and toxic. Flush all surfaces with water after use. Oxalic acid solutions or acetic acid (vinegar) may be used for the same purpose. Flush with water after use. Laundry bleach may assist in removing certain stains.

CLEANING: In some cases, simply washing with plain water, using a hose or pressure spray, would be adequate. For areas where dirt collection is heavier or more persistent, a solution of water and detergent (1/3 cups of Tide® per gallon of water, for example) may be used. A clear water rinse should follow immediately. If Product is installed in a mild marine environment, less than 1 mile and greater than 1000 feet from breaking surf, Product should be washed two times per year.

Mildew may occur in areas subject to high humidity. Mildew spores can grow in dirt deposits, even on factory baked finishes. To remove mildew along with the dirt, the following solution is recommended:

1/3 cup detergent (Tide® for example)

2/3 cup Sodium Phosphate (Soilex for example)

1 quart 5% Sodium Hypochlorite solution (Clorox for example)

3 quarts of water

EXCESS SEALANT REMOVAL: Precautions should be taken to prevent sealants from getting on the painted surface. Sealants may be very difficult to remove. If any does get on a Coil surface, it should be removed promptly with a solvent such as alcohol or a naphtha type. Caution: It may be possible for solvents to extract materials from sealants which could stain the painted surface or could prove harmful to sealants; therefore, these possible effects must be considered. Test a small area first.