

Sign cleaning procedures

Before cleaning a sign face inspect the sign to determine if it has a dew resistant sheeting and then follow the appropriate cleaning method below.

Sign faces covered with DT142-S Dewtect dew resistant sheeting

Sign faces laminated with Dewtect overlay should not require cleaning. The surface of Dewtect-S sheeting should not be wiped with solvents or abrasive cloths at any other time. If the surface becomes soiled during handling or installation the sign face should only be cleaned using a low pressure stream of clean water in spray form, high pressure water jets and abrasive cloths should not be used.

- ◆ Do not drag, scuff or mark the surface,
- ◆ Do not wash or wipe surface with any organic solvents.

Sign faces not covered with DT142-S Dewtect dew resistant sheeting

The sign will probably have sand / grit within the surface dirt, therefore it is recommended that a low-pressure flow of water is used to help remove this loose dirt and sand / grit from the sign first. Never use a strong jet of water.

Rubbing the sand / grit into the sign during the cleaning procedure may cause irreparable damage to the sign material. Therefore, care must be taken during the cleaning process. A small solution of a mild detergent in clean warm water is recommended for cleaning the sign surface. The detergent and cloth must be non-abrasive, free of any strong aromatic solvents or alcohol's and be chemically neutral.

Rinse the whole area thoroughly after washing and allow to dry naturally or use a lint free cloth. Tar or similar deposits can be removed by a light application of turpentine, following this with the washing instructions above.

Sign cleaning procedure

To maintain maximum retro reflectivity, performance and acceptability, signs should be kept clean and free from dirt, road tar, oil and bituminous material. Dewtect dew resistant signs should not be cleaned in this manner

A. Equipment

1. The cleaning vehicle should have tanks providing a clean water supply.
2. Drums or tanks can be installed on a vehicle to separately store both water and a mild detergent solution.
3. Portable pump and hose with handle.
4. Soft brushes mop or sponge for attaching to the hose.

B. Cleaner

1. Normally water and a mild detergent should only be used, but when dirt or stains cannot be removed, then only use "Turpentine" sparingly.
2. Do not use abrasive cleaner, or strong aromatic or alcohol based cleaners.
3. Do not use highly alkaline or acid based cleaner.

C. Recommended Procedure

1. Flush the entire surface with clean water to remove loose dirt particles such as grit and sand.
2. Wash the sign face with a soft brush, mop or sponge, using water and mild detergent.
3. Wash thoroughly from the top down avoiding abrasion to the sign face.
4. Once a mild detergent or turpentine has been used, keep a gentle steady stream of water flowing on the surface to wash away dirt particles.
5. Rinse the entire sign face with clean water. Allow to dry naturally.

D. Prohibited sign washing methods

1. Avoid high-pressure jets of water.
2. Do not direct spray at sheeting edges including letters, symbols etc.
3. Do not scratch the signface by using brushes with stiff bristles or by unnecessary scrubbing.
4. Do not wash signs with steam jet.

E. Tar, Oil, Diesel Smut, Bituminous Material

1. If these remain after steps C, 1 - 3 above, moisten soft cloth with turpentine and wipe area lightly.
2. After wiping, wash with mild detergent and water, rinsing with plenty of clean water & allow to dry naturally.
3. Do not use any solvents other than turpentine.
3. Do not spray turpentine directly onto the sheeting surface.
4. Avoid direct spray at the sheeting edges.

F. Warning

Cleaning screen printed sign faces with solvents or alcohol may damage or remove the printed ink. Some cleaners on the market may also damage the retro reflective sheeting, therefore, test first on a small area of sign face and confirm that it does not damage the sheeting or remove the screen printed area before mass scale use.

Removing graffiti from Sign faces

Many forms of graffiti can be carefully removed from sign faces by using citrus cleaners or turpentine sparingly. Follow the procedures above using a soft cloth and avoiding strong solvent based cleaners which may damage the surface properties and remove screen printed areas. Test a small area and rub gently allowing the cleaner to breakdown the graffiti. Where certain solvent based aerosols have been used these may be more difficult to remove and may require more than one attempt. Always check that the process of removal is not damaging the base reflective sheeting or sign detail.

Areas prone to graffiti would benefit from signs being manufactured with Nikkalite® EF40801 Premium protective overlay film on the surface which resists all known solvents and will allow multiple cleanings without damage providing abrasive cloths are not used. All forms of aerosols and marker pens can be successfully removed from the surface of EF40801 using various commercially available cleaners without damaging the base reflective sheeting or screen printed sign detail.

Reliability of information

All recommendations and technical information contained herein are based on experience and tests, which the manufacturer believes to be reliable, but their accuracy and completion are not warranted.

The user is cautioned to undertake tests to determine the suitability of a particular product for the intended application.