

GLASS SURFACE CLEANING INSTRUCTION MANUAL

SAINT-GOBAIN POLAND SP. Z O.O. GLASSOLUTIONS BRANCH IN JAROSZOWIEC

Issue: 04.2017

1. Glass cleaning

1.1. General rules

Glass cleaning, as well as removal of residue from stickers and dividers, should be performed by the contractor with the use of mild cleaning detergents. Glass contamination which cannot be removed through normal cleaning with lots of water, a sponge, rubber wiper, soft leather or cleaning sprays and cloths available on the market can be removed with a little bit of steel wool or household detergents.

Sharp tools such as blades or scrapers may create small scratches on the surface, thus they should be avoided.

In particular, it is necessary to immediately remove lumps of cement and other construction debris, as otherwise they may contaminate the window.

If sealant residue is transferred onto the glass while sealing the window, it should be removed immediately.

Normal contamination should be removed as described above, but abrasive materials, such as scouring agents or steel wool, may not be used. Contamination which is difficult to remove, such as paint or tar stains or glue residue should be removed with the correct solvent, i.e. spirit, acetone or petrol, afterwards the glass should be rinsed with water. It is important to prevent any contact between the solvent and the glass sealant, gaskets or any other organic material (silicone joints), as they may become damaged.

Non-recommended cleaning detergents

Do not use strong alkaline or acidic solutions, especially liquid acids and cleaning detergents containing fluoride. Such solutions may cause irreversible damage to the coating and/or surface of the glass.

The façade and glass panels should be cleaned in accordance with commonly recognised industrial standards.

1.2. Glass with a metal oxide coating

Glass covered with a metal oxide coating requires special cleaning agents. Ordinary contamination should be removed as described above, but abrasive agents, such as scouring agents or steel wool may not be used.

Contamination which is difficult to remove, such as paint or tar stains or glue residue should be removed with the correct solvent, i.e. spirit, acetone or petrol, afterwards the glass should be rinsed with water.

It is important to prevent any contact between the solvent and the glass sealant, gaskets or any other organic material (silicone joints), as they may become damaged.

1.3. Cleaning satin glass

The surface of satin glass is slightly rougher on one side than on the other. For that reason, that surface may get dirty faster than the smooth surface. It is necessary to pay more attention to the maintenance of such glass.

Only detergents which do not contain silicone or acids can be used for cleaning. Do not use strong alkaline solutions, acids or cleaning detergents containing fluoride. Glass cleaning, as well as removal of residue from stickers and dividers, should be performed with the use of mild cleaning detergents.

Contamination on the glass should be removed using the “wet” method, with lots of water, a sponge, rubber roller, leather, or cleaning sprays and cloths available on the market. Contamination which is difficult to remove and cannot be removed with ordinary cleaning detergents should be removed with the use of special detergents (Pril, Ajax, etc.). Then, it is recommended to use the ordinary “wet” cleaning method. The use of steam cleaning devices with a steam soaking function guarantees satisfactory results while cleaning heavily contaminated areas.

Heavy contamination should be removed with the use of the correct cleaning solutions, however, do not use fine pieces of steel wool or tools with sharp edges such as blades or scrapers. Cleaning solutions containing abrasive particles are not recommended.

In order to remove tough stains, for example paint or tar or glue residue, use the correct solvents, for example spirit, acetone or petrol, and then clean the area using the “wet” method. It is important to prevent any contact between the solvent and the glass sealant, gaskets or any other organic material (silicone joints), as they may become damaged.

It is normal for glass to become contaminated during wall plastering works. Lime found in plastering materials will damage glass surfaces if it is not removed immediately with a sponge and lots of water.

As glass may become contaminated in a number of different ways, it is not possible to provide recommendations for each and every case. In case of heavily contaminated areas, we recommend carrying out a test on a small section of the surface which is not highly noticeable. Information contained in this instruction manual is based on many years of experience but it is not exhaustive. Comply with specific recommendations for each cleaning detergent.

1.4. Cleaning SGG BIOCLEAN self-cleaning glass

First contact with SGG BIOCLEAN

1.4.1. Label: If the SGG BIOCLEAN label is still on the glass, it should be carefully removed. Do not use sharp tools which may scratch the coating or the glass surface (such as blades, spatulas, abrasive agents).

1.4.2. The first cleaning of the glass should not take place sooner than a week after the window has been fitted. Wash the external glass panel with plenty of water.

1.4.3. Self-cleaning function: after a week from fitting the window, the self-cleaning mechanism of SGG BIOCLEAN activates gradually due to exposure to UV rays.

Ongoing maintenance

SGG BIOCLEAN glass does not become as dirty as ordinary glass. The frequency of cleaning depends on the exposure of the glass to sunlight and rain and on the level of pollution in the air.

1.4.4. Cleaning tools: rubber wiper intended for glass cleaning, in a good condition, clean and silicone-free; clean and soft cloth; clean and non-abrasive sponge.

1.4.5. Cleaning detergents: clean water and ordinary neutral glass cleaning detergents. As with any other glass, water should have low lime contents. If necessary, use softened or demineralised water.

1.4.6. Do not use: cleaning agents or glass treatment agents containing silicone or abrasive particles; maintenance agents intended for materials other than glass (aluminium, wood, etc.); chemical agents: baking soda, javel water, liquor; abrasive materials: scrubbing cloths and sponges, steel wool, blades and knives.

2. Surface damage

Glass surface may become damaged for various reasons. It is necessary to implement certain precautions, relevant for the location.

Welding and grinding

In case of welding or grinding works performed near windows, relevant precautions need to be applied to avoid pitting, welding splatter or sparks.

Glass etching and leaching

The surface of the glass may be subject to etching in contact with chemical agents often used in construction materials and cleaning detergents. Chemicals such as alkaline and acidic solutions over time lead to permanent surface etching. This applies to fresh concrete, ordinary and two-coat plaster, etc., which comes into contact with the glass surface.

Water damage

The glass surface may also become damaged by long-term water exposure, especially if the glass had been subjected to long-term contamination before the building was cleaned. Glass should be cleaned regularly when necessary during construction works.

Additional information

Additional information can be found in the Qualitative Criteria for Glass Units.

