



Cleaning Coil and Extrusion Coatings

Coil & Extrusion 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 or Extrusion 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 & Extrusion 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 & Extrusion 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 or Extrusion 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 or Extrusion 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 & Extrusion 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.

Mildew Removal

Remove mildew with a basic solution of the following:

- 1/3 cup detergent (Tide, for example)
- 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate (Soilex, for example)
- 1 quart sodium hypochloride, 5% solution (Clorox, for example)

Rinse with clear water immediately.

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 or Extrusion 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.