



# Cleaning your glass

Glass is one of the world's most utilised building materials. When used with advance technology, it can assist in keeping our homes and offices cool in summer and warm in winter. The correct cleaning procedures play a vital role in maintaining the visual, structural and performance qualities of your glass. Glass should be cleaned as frequently as is needed to keep its appearance looking good.

## General cleaning tips

- › Clean your glass as soon as it's visibly dirty.
- › Flood the surface with water or cleaning solutions to remove loose dust and grit.
- › For best results, clean the glass beginning at the top and working downwards.
- › Wipe with a clean wet cloth, free of grit, using an approved detergent solution until glass is visibly clean.
- › Rinse with clean water.
- › Dry immediately with a clean lint-free cloth or good clean squeegee.
- › Do not allow metal squeegee holders to touch the glass surface.

## What not to do

- ✗ Do not use cleaners that contain hydrofluoric or phosphoric acid (or have the possibility of forming hydrofluoric acid), as they are corrosive to the glass surface.
- ✗ Do not clean glass when it is hot or in direct sunlight – the glass will be too hot for optimal cleaning.
- ✗ Do not allow cleaning solutions to come into contact with the edges of laminated glass, insulated glass units (double glazing) or mirrors.
- ✗ Do not store or place other material in contact with the glass. This can damage the glass or create a heat trap, leading to thermal breakage.
- ✗ Do not use abrasive cleaners, powder-based cleaners, scouring pads or other harsh materials. Avoid using adhesives or tapes that can stain or damage glass surfaces – ensure they are known to be easily removed later.

## What to do

- ✓ Use only cleaning materials that are free of grit and debris, to avoid scratching and marking the glass surface.
- ✓ Polish the surface dry with a lint-free cloth.
- ✓ Use only detergents and cleaning solutions that are produced and recommended specifically for glass cleaning. Mild detergents are preferable.
- ✓ Use extra care when special products such as Low-E, self-cleaning, solar control, high-performance, and coated glass is installed. The surfaces of these can be susceptible to stains and scratches and therefore require vigilance during the full construction process and require specific cleaning procedures.

*See the next page for more details on these products.*

Detailed instructions for specialised glass types can be found on the next page

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## Cleaning your glass

### Cleaning specialised glass types

#### Low-E glass

Low-E glass has a pyrolytic coating (hard coat). *How do I know if my window has a Low-E coating?* When you touch your window it feels noticeably rougher than the smooth glass surface.

It is important to note the normal presence of a haze on some coated glass under some conditions. If encountered, consult the manufacturer before cleaning. The coated surface of the glass will be to the interior. Extra care must be taken whilst cleaning this surface to prevent damage to the coating. Ensure gloves are worn, and jewellery and watches are removed before cleaning.

- › Ensure the glass surface is generously coated with the recommended cleaning product, such as Windex or similar, or a mixture of one part vinegar to ten parts water. Alternatively, use a cloth saturated with the cleaning solution.
- › Wipe the saturated surface with a clean, lint-free towel or cloth. Then dry with another clean, lint-free towel or cloth. Do not use a squeegee on the coated (interior) surface.
- › To prevent streaking, stop wiping when the glass is almost dry and there is a uniform film of moisture left on the glass surface. The moisture will quickly evaporate, leaving a clean surface.

#### Spot cleaning of coated Low-E glass

Occasionally, spot cleaning may be needed to remove stubborn dirt or foreign materials that can adhere to the Low-E glass surface. Markings from grease, oil, tape adhesive and crayons, or other waxy materials as well as paint and rub-off marks from plastics can be spot cleaned by following these suggested instructions.

- › Apply a small quantity of the manufacturer's approved cleaner for the type of coated glass you are cleaning, to a clean wet cloth or towel.
- › Rub on areas of glass needing spot cleaning.
- › Wipe clean using a dry, clean, lint-free towel or cloth, following the routine cleaning procedure given above.
- › Do not use metallic or abrasive items such as razor blades, steel wool or scouring bristles on the coated surface. If metallic objects touch the coated surface a discoloured stain may result that is difficult to remove using normal cleaning procedures, as a thin layer of metal has been removed and embedded itself on the surface.

#### Toughened glass

Due to the manufacturing process, toughened glass may have 'pick up' on the opposite surface to that with the standards compliance stamp. Pick up are very small particles of glass that have fused to the surface during the toughening process.

Sharp blades and scrapers should be avoided as they can dislodge any pick up and result in scratching. A soft cloth which will not dislodge pick up should be used.

It is suggested that cleaners consult with their suppliers as to the suitability of available cleaning equipment, materials and methods.

#### Mirror glass

There are basic guidelines that, if followed, will avoid scratching of the glass surface during cleaning. Special care must be taken when cleaning mirrors particularly to the back and edges where the silvering can be damaged.

- › Use a microfibre cloth or a lint free cloth
- › Use ammonia free glass cleaner to prevent streaks and potential damage to the mirror's backing.
- › Gently dust off anything on the surface with the dry microfibre cloth before applying glass cleaner
- › Spray the cloth, not the mirror – don't over saturate
- › Avoid any moisture or chemicals coming into contact with the silvering (back and edges) of the mirror.
- › Use cotton swabs to reach the edges and corners that are hard to clean with a cloth
- › Wipe in a zig zag motion to help avoid streaks and covers the surface evenly
- › Wipe on with a damp cloth, then polish dry with a separate lint-free cloth.
- › Avoid moisture near the edges and back of the mirror to prevent damage.

With these steps, your mirrored glass will stay clean and clear without streaks or damage.