

Solanum | Cleaning and Refinishing

General Cleaning

Periodic cleaning is recommended to maintain the color, luster and depth of Zahner Surfaces. Clean using warm soapy water and a clean, soft cotton cloth, followed by a thorough rinse using clean water. Wipe dry with a clean, soft cotton cloth.

- **Do** use a clean, soft cotton cloth or a soft sponge. **Do not** use abrasive pads or steel-wool products.
- **Do** spray any cleaning agents onto the cloth or sponge. **Do not** spray or apply cleaning agents directly on the finish.
- **Do** use clean, warm water. **Do not** use mild abrasive cleaners such as Ajax, Bon Ami, Comet, Twinkle, Cameo Stainless Steel Cleaner, or Softscrub.

When cleaning for the first time, test in an inconspicuous area. If a successful result is obtained, cleaning the rest of the surfaces can begin.

Clean the entire surface equally - clean all the way to any edged or joints - to avoid visible differences in appearance.

Remind other trades to be mindful of the Zahner Surfaces product when they are cleaning adjacent areas.

Heavy Soiling

Pressure Washing

When necessary, Zahner Surfaces may be cleaned using a pressure washer. Use a washer equipped with a 45-degree nozzle, and a maximum pressure of 1,500 psi. Keep the nozzle at least 24" from the surface, and sweep evenly across the sheet to avoid concentrating pressure on a single region.

If pressures higher than 1,500 psi are used, if the nozzle is held too close to the surface, or if the force is concentrated on a small area, the finish may be affected.

In the event that the finish is damaged or removed during the cleaning process, or if removing the contamination requires finish removal, follow the procedures provided in the "Refinishing" section below.

Graffiti Removal

Removal of graffiti should be approached by first trying to identify the type of paint along with its associated removal methods and products. If at all possible, perform these tests in an inconspicuous area of the sheet. Commercial paint removal products can occasionally include residual oils that may penetrate the finish and change its appearance (eg, darker coloration).

If a successful result is obtained, cleaning of the rest of the affected area of the sheet can begin.

If treatment via paint removal products does not work, a more comprehensive refinishing approach may be required. For these circumstances, follow the instructions contained within the "Refinishing" section below.

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Refinishing

In the event that the Solanum finish has been damaged and is in need of repair, refer to the instructions provided below.

Scratch or gouge

Solanum is a self-repairing surface finish. Whenever possible, it's generally best to allow the re-oxidation process to occur naturally. Any scratch or gouge that penetrates to the underlying steel will initially appear bright and shiny metallic. When the oxidation occurs naturally, the scratch will transition from this bright, shiny finish to a reddish-orange appearance within a matter of weeks. This will help disguise the scratch or gouge. Given time, the complete oxidized weathering steel finish will regenerate.

If an accelerated regeneration of the finish is required, the process is as follows:

1. Clean the scratch or gouge using a file or fine (120 grit or finer) sandpaper. This will expose a larger area of unoxidized steel, so be careful to limit the size of the exposed surface.
2. Dilute 2 tablespoons of sodium chloride (table salt) in 17 fl oz water. Using a spray bottle adjusted to fine mist, spray the exposed surface. Keep the spray to a light mist and avoid allowing the water to bead up on the surface and run.
3. Allow to air dry.
4. Repeat as often as possible (depending on dry times) over an 8 hour period, or until the weathered oxidation finish has regenerated.

Initial results may not exactly match the color of the original Solanum finish, but additional coloration will occur naturally over time. If the finish is not acceptable at this point, the sheet will need to be replaced.

Graffiti

Paints may be easier to remove from the Solanum finish via mechanical/abrasive measures as the bond to the oxide can be quite strong. In these circumstances, the process is as follows:

1. Lightly rub with a fine (120 grit or finer) sandpaper. Rub in a circular pattern. A dual-action or random orbital sander can also be used.
2. Avoid abrading into the underlying steel as this will result in local dips or depressions that can remain visible after refinishing.
3. Light sandblasting may be needed to even out any patterns left via hand or mechanical sanding.
4. Abrade sufficiently to remove the Solanum finish and any paint or oils left behind in their entirety.
5. Dilute 2 tablespoons of sodium chloride (table salt) in 17 fl oz water. Using a spray bottle adjusted to fine mist, spray the exposed surface. Keep the spray to a light mist and avoid allowing the water to bead up on the surface and run.
6. Allow to air dry.
7. Repeat as often as possible (depending on dry times) over an 8 hour period, or until the weathered oxidation finish has regenerated.

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If at all possible, perform these tests in an inconspicuous area of the sheet. If a successful result is obtained, refinishing of the rest of the affected area of the sheet can begin.

Zahner Surfaces with Incralac Clear Coat

For general cleaning of Zahner Surfaces that have been specified with the Incralac clear coat, follow the guidelines provided within the “General Cleaning” section above. For more aggressive cleaning needs, the use of turpentine or mineral spirits and a clean, soft cotton cloth are recommended.

Do not use any of the following as a cleaning agents, as they will damage and potentially remove the protective coating:

- Acetone, or any ketone
- Xylene
- Toluene
- 3M Safest Stripper
- Klean Strip-X
- Klean Toluene/Xylene substitute
- Methanol