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Glass maintenance and cleaning

Glass is a hard substance, but it can be scratched. Glass is resistant to many, but not all, chemicals. Glass is generally a durable material, and if properly maintained, can last almost forever.

Glass should be washed frequently to remove surface dirt and also to protect the glass from staining. Glass staining occurs when the sodium within the glass reacts with moisture in the air. When combined with small amounts of water, sodium can form sodium hydroxide, which is corrosive to glass. If this sodium hydroxide is left on the glass surface for a prolonged period of time, the glass will be permanently damaged and may have to be replaced. The sodium hydroxide is easily removed with water and normal glass cleaning solutions, e.g. alcohol and water, or ammonia and water. Installed glass is less prone to sodium hydroxide damage due to the natural cleansing of the glass surface by rain.

Recommended cleaning or washing solutions

A. General glass cleaning

- Use water applied by a saturated clean cloth
- Use proprietary glass cleaning solutions ensure you follow all printed instructions.
Immediately remove cleaning solutions with a clean, soft, dry cloth
- Use a 50-50 mixture of alcohol and water, or ammonia and water, followed by a warm rinse. Glass must be dried with a clean, soft cloth or a chamois and cellulose sponge

B: - Precautions

- Avoid abrasive or highly alkaline cleaners. Do not use petroleum products, i.e. petrol, diesel or lighter fluid
- Hydrofluoric and phosphoric acid are corrosive to the glass surface and should never be used.
- Protect the glass surface from over spray or run-off from acids and cleaning agents used to clean metal framing, brick or masonry and splatter from welding processes
- Keep all cleaning solutions and other materials from coming into contact with the edges of laminated glass or insulated glass units.
- Do not use abrasive brushes, razor blades or other objects that may scratch the glass.
- Immediately remove any construction materials, i.e. concrete, fireproofing, paints, labels and tapes
- Clean a small area at a time, and inspect the glass surface frequently to ensure that no glass damage has Occurred.
- For most effective results, clean glass at a time when its surface is shaded. Avoid direct sunlight or hot Glass.