

Technical Data

How To Clean Painted and Reflective Ceiling Component Surfaces

To avoid damaging the painted and reflective surface of ceiling components during installation, it's advisable to maintain as clean a work environment as possible. It's also recommended that the ceiling mechanic(s), as well as other tradespersons, make certain their hands are clean when handling ceiling components. Generally, it's always best to install ceiling grid components and metal tiles while wearing an inexpensive pair of cotton work gloves. This will reduce the transference of dirt, hand oil, sweat, etc., which can smudge, soil, or damage the finish, from the mechanic's hands to the finish during the installation process. Throughout the installation process, the ceiling mechanic(s) should always strive to maintain the same standard of cleanliness with which the job is begun.

However, despite these precautions, some soiling or smudging of a component's finish is bound to happen. In order to insure that such smudged or soiled finishes are cleaned appropriately, Chicago Metallic Corporation has developed the following set of recommendations:

- 1.) Select a mild, non-abrasive cleaning agent typically used for cleaning painted or reflective surfaces. Never use abrasive cleaning agents as such treatments may scratch, mar, alter, discolor, and/or remove the finish.
- 2.) Before cleaning the finish, perform a trial test on a section of the finish that will be hidden from view once installed. This will insure that the cleaning agent selected is appropriate and will not damage the finish in question.
- 3.) Once an appropriate cleaning solution has been selected, care should be taken to use only that amount which is necessary. Do not soak the ceiling components with the solution.
- 4.) Use a clean soft sponge or cloth when applying the cleaning agent in order to insure that the applicator does not contain any abrasive elements that may damage the finish in question.
- 5.) Any excess cleaning solution should be removed immediately so that the solution does not dry and possibly leave a residue. In the event that a large area needs to be cleaned, it's advisable to break the area down into smaller, more manageable sections so that adequate time is available to complete each phase of the cleaning cycle.
- 6.) After cleaning the soiled or smudged area, wipe the surface with a dry soft cloth to remove any residual cleaning solution and dry the area. Use a clean damp cloth to remove any residue that cannot be removed with the dry cloth. Repeat the drying process.

- 7.) After the components are clean, allow a few minutes for air drying before installation. It is important that the clean components are dry because other ceiling material, such as ceiling board or insulation, which may come into contact with the cleaned components, can be susceptible to damage from moisture.

As the numerous finishes offered by Chicago Metallic Corporation vary in color, texture, gloss level, and method of application, so to can the effect of cleaning agents upon these differences vary. The numerous finishes offered by Chicago Metallic Corporation can each have a different reaction to a cleaning solution and its chemical composition. For instance, a cleaning solution that proves effective for one type of finish may also clean another type of finish, but, in doing so, alter it's color or gloss level in some manner. In addition, the amount of effort required to clean a soiled or smudged finish will vary, and, for certain finishes, too much effort may also alter the finish in some manner.

For these reasons, Chicago Metallic Corporation must stress the importance of trial testing a cleaning solution, applicator, and the amount of effort necessary to apply the solution on an inconspicuous area of the component's finish prior to cleaning the soiled or smudged area. Such precautions will allow for adjustments to the cleaning solution, applicator, or application effort without risking damage to those conspicuous areas of the finish in need of cleaning.

Chicago Metallic Corporation has developed the following list of recommended cleaning solutions that have proven effective for a given product and finish. However, as stated previously, these solutions should be trial tested prior to application on soiled or smudged areas in order to insure their effectiveness:

| Type of Finish | Recommended Cleaning Agent / Method of Application |
|-------------------|--|
| Painted Finish | Dilute a mild, non-abrasive, liquid dishwashing detergent in water. Apply with a sponge or wet cloth. Wipe clean with a dry, soft cloth. |
| Reflective Finish | Apply household glass cleaner. Wipe clean with a soft cloth. |

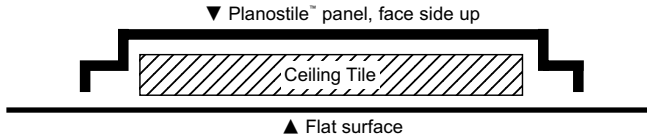
Additional recommendations:

- 1.) If a Planostile™ panel is soiled or smudged to such an extent that it cannot be adequately cleaned while in place within the supporting ceiling system, then carefully remove the panel from the ceiling. Place the panel, face side up, over a 2' x 2' ceiling tile that is resting on a flat, rigid surface, such as a table top. The flat surface will insure a

Technical Data

stable, level working surface, and the ceiling tile will provide support for the face of the panel. Once this proper support is in place, commence with the appropriate cleaning procedures. While cleaning the panel, care should be taken so as to exert minimal pressure on the face of the panel.

Failure to take such care when cleaning these panels may result in panel deformation.



2.) A metal polish, such as “Noxon-7 Metal Polish”, may be used to clean and polish panels with a reflective finish. This metal polish may also be used to clean stainless steel products offered by Chicago Metallic.

3.) Prior to painting Traditions™ panels, it’s advisable to clean the panels by applying a solution of equal parts vinegar and water with a soft sponge or cloth. This will serve to remove any surface oil, dirt, dust, etc. from the panel, which will insure better paint retention. It is strongly recommended that the panels be dried thoroughly, as any solution remaining on the panels will cause the metal to tarnish.

4.) If the natural metal appearance of Traditions™ panels is to be retained, clean the panels with “Noxon-7 Metal Polish” prior to applying a polyurethane coating as recommended by Chicago Metallic. The metal polish will serve to remove any surface accumulation, as well as any metal tarnishing that may have occurred in transit or storage.



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