

# INFORMATION SHEET

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## GLASS CLEANING GUIDE

FTCGLASS hereby provide the following information as a general guide only and specific advice should always be sought from a qualified glazier or window cleaner before cleaning is undertaken. As cleaning of glass is an integral requirement of FTCGLASS's warranties, failure to follow the cleaning instructions (which consequently can cause glass damage) may void any written or implied warranty.

### Guidelines for Glass Cleaning

It is recommended that glass be protected from contamination caused by building materials as this will greatly simplify the cleaning of the glass task at project's end.

Construction dust, leaching from concrete products and rusting from steel can create mild chemicals, which may stain or otherwise damage the glass.

Glass should be cleaned using only cleaning materials which are free of grit and debris (to avoid scratching and marking of the glass surface).

Only detergents and cleaning solutions which are recommended for cleaning glass should be used. Mild detergents are preferable.

Extra care is necessary where high performance and coated glass products are installed as the coated surface can be susceptible to stains and scratches. Extra vigilance is required during the full construction process and these types of glasses require different cleaning procedures.

Glass installations which are adjacent to concrete (e.g. concrete slab floors) require extra care and cleaning due to the abrasive nature of concrete dust. All tradesmen should exercise care to avoid damaging glass and also be advised to leave in place any materials protecting the glazing.

### Routine Cleaning

Hand cleaning of the glass surface to visibly remove accumulated dust or fingerprints can be accomplished using a number of different glass cleaning products. Recommended cleaning products are Windex® Glass (available from supermarkets) or a mixture of one-part vinegar to ten parts water. Other commercially available vinegar-based glass cleaners have generally demonstrated an ability to provide a clean, streak-free glass surface.

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## Procedure

Flood the glass surface with the spray-on cleaning solution or with a lint and grit free cloth saturated with the cleaning solution being generous with the amount of solution applied, then scrub the wet surface with a clean, lint free towel or cloth.

Wipe dry with a dry, clean, lint free towel or cloth and to prevent streaking, stop wiping when the glass is almost dry and there is a uniform film left on the glass surface.

## Special Products

Glasses with a Low E or reflective coating need to be treated with special care when cleaning to ensure the coating is protected and not damaged once cleaned.

Do not use razor blades, steel wool or other metallic objects on the coated surface.

Hand cleaning of the coated (interior) surface, to visibly remove accumulated dust or fingerprints, can be accomplished using a number of different glass cleaning products, such as Windex® Multi-Surface Cleaner (colourless liquid) (Australia) or Mr Muscle® Surface and Glass (New Zealand) (clear liquid available from Supermarket), produced by SC Johnson. Alternatively, a mixture of one-part vinegar with ten parts water can be used as generally this method has demonstrated an ability to provide a clean, streak free glass surface. The use of ammonia-base and alcohol-base glass cleaners are not recommended because these products tend to leave visible streaks.

The exterior surface of the glass is not coated so cleaning can be undertaken in the same fashion as ordinary glass.

## Routine Cleaning Procedure

Whilst cleaning, watches and jewelry must be removed and gloves worn. Flood the glass surface with the spray-on cleaning solution or with a cloth saturated with the cleaning solution being generous with the amount of solution applied, then scrub the wet surface with a clean, lint free towel or cloth.

Wipe dry with a dry, clean, lint free towel or cloth and to prevent streaking, stop wiping when the glass is almost dry and there is a uniform film left on the glass surface which will quickly evaporate leaving a clean surface. Do not use a squeegee on the coated (interior) surface.

## Care of Mirrors

Mirrors require special care in cleaning. To clean mirrors, simply wipe over the surface with a few drops of methylated spirits on a damp cloth. Polish surface dry with a lint free cloth. Be aware that some proprietary glass cleaners, if used to excess, can cause damage to the silvering of the mirror as can excessive amounts of water. Make certain when cleaning the face of the mirror that there is no contact with the silver backing, particularly at the edge of the glass and be careful to keep any moisture away from the paint backing of the mirror. Do everything possible to ensure that the cleaning cloths used are free of any abrasives.

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## What Not To Do

- ✘ Do not use cleaners which contain Hydrofluoric or Phosphoric acid as they are corrosive to the glass surface
  - ✘ Do not clean the glass when the glass is hot or in direct sunlight.
  - ✘ Do not allow cleaning solutions to contact the edges of Laminated glass, Insulating Glass Units or Mirrors.
  - ✘ Do not use abrasive cleaners, powder based cleaners, scouring pads or other harsh materials to clean glass products.
  - ✘ Do not use metal scrapers or razor blades to remove building construction debris from glass surface. It is suggested that solvents or graffiti removal materials be investigated, and if such a product is selected for use, ensure that it will not damage the glass surface, laminated glass interlayers or IGU perimeter seals.
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