

Care and Maintenance of Sandblasted Glass

What is “Sandblasted Glass”

Sandblasted glass is exactly what the name infers. The term “etched glass” is also used although, technically, etched means a process in which acid is used to opaque the surface of glass. Sandblasting can completely opaque the surface of glass or it is a technique that can be used to create designs on the glass. The most often used technique is to create a design on the outer surface of the glass. When this is used the glass feels smooth to the touch but the opacity is actually created by creating tiny pits in glass.

Blotchiness- the most common need for care and maintenance

Oil from hands is one of the most common causes of Sandblasted glass losing it’s original crisp look and looking blotchy. Kid’s hands and dog’s noses are notorious for causing this problem. Following the below simple cleaning instructions will cure most problems that you will encounter.

Simple Cleaning Instructions

1. Clean the sandblasted side of the glass with a good quality, nonstreaking window cleaner. Spray the glass lightly and then wipe with a clean towel. Lint free terry towels are preferred. Paper towels can be used but many leave fine particles that can be felt if you run your hand over the glass. When the glass is dry, this “paper lint” can usually be lightly wiped off. Never use anything abrasive. Concentrate your cleaning more in the areas that are blotchy. IMPORTANT – Continue lightly drying the glass in circular motions until the moisture disappears. This prevents water lines or water spots. Hard repeated rubbing can start polishing areas of the glass and complicate the problem.
2. If the above has not restored the original look – Use a small amount of GOOF OFF, or a similar product, that cuts oil. These are available from most home supply stores in the paint department. If these are not available, paint or lacquer thinner can also be used. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET THESE ON PAINTED SURFACES WITHOUT FIRST TESTING AN INCONSPICUOUS SPOT.** As in step 1 above, continuously rub in a circular motion to completely wet the area needing cleaned. Immediately then use a good quality window cleaner and follow the instructions in step one.
3. Using the above has restored the original look to virtually every decorative sandblasted piece of glass in which we have seen cleanliness problems. The procedure is not hard and only takes a few minutes. If you feel the glass needs more than just glass cleaner – go immediately to step two and use the GOOF OFF method.

Paint On the Sandblasted Glass

If you have latex paint on your sandblasted glass, use the number two method as described above. Frequently change towels when using the GOOF OFF as it is used to remove the paint and you do not want to smear it back onto the glass as you are removing it. If a door is going to be painted it is far easier to use a good masking tape that leaves no adhesive residue than to clean paint off after the fact.