

WORKING WITH CLEANING SOLVENTS

- Always observe product label and MSDS warnings.
- Always work in a well-ventilated area.
- Always wear proper personal safety equipment. (See MSDS)
- Never allow solvents to come in contact with skin. (May enter blood stream)
- Check with local VOC regulations.
- Check product flash point on MSDS.
- Never clean fiberglass, sheet molded compounds (SMC), or plastics with cleaners with flash points below 150°F(66°C). (Potential flash fire).

Fiberglass, SMC, and plastic surfaces have a natural tendency to build up high levels of static electricity. If solvent cleaners are used that have low flash points (lower than 150°F (66°C)) the potential for flash fire hazards are increased. Water base cleaners such as AquaClean 170 with a flash point of 175°F (79°C) is recommended. When cleaning plastic surfaces Valspar Refinish's PR1 Plastic Cleaner is recommended. (See Plastic Refinishing Section)

Basic Information:

There are two basic types of surface cleaners, Water base and Solvent base. Strict VOC regulations in California gave birth to the need for surface cleaners to release less volatile organic compounds (VOC) into the atmosphere. Water base type cleaners generally have the ability to clean water soluble type contamination off the surface as well as wax and grease. They may often be used for all cleaning steps, including dirt and grime, wax and grease, and after sanding to remove sanding sludge. Water base cleaners are also ideal for cleaning aluminum and do not draw additional aluminum dust from within the pores of the aluminum. Water base cleaners flash off slower than Solvent base cleaners, and therefore are more forgiving when cleaning large areas.

Solvent base products are stronger than Water base and may be slightly faster flashing, but require two types of cleaners for various cleaning steps. For instance, there are Pre-Sanding cleaners for wax and grease removing before any sanding has been done. These cleaners are the strongest of all the surface cleaners and must not be used once a surface has been sanded. If used after sanding they may cause sand-scratch swelling. The second type of solvent cleaner is the Post-Sanding cleaners. They should be used after a surface has been sanded. They remove sanding sludge and fingerprints and are very mild to the sanded surface. Post-sanding cleaners are too weak to be used as the pre-sanding solvent cleaner and would leave the surface insufficiently cleaned.

Products:

170 AquaClean- Water Base Cleaner

155 Surface Cleaner- Solvent base Cleaner

Procedures:

170 AquaClean

Aluminum- Wipe surface with 170 AquaClean and scuff area with red scuff pad. Re-wet area and wipe dry with clean cloth before product flashes dry.

All Other Surfaces- Wipe surface with 170 AquaClean and wipe dry with clean cloth before product flashes dry. Avoid wiping too large an area at one time. If product flashes dry before being wiped clean, re-wet surface.

155 Surface Cleaner- After washing surface with detergent and water or 170 AquaClean, or after surface has been properly sanded, wipe on 155 Surface Cleaner. Wipe dry with a clean cloth before product flashes dry. Avoid wiping too large an area at one time. If product flashes dry before being wiped clean, re-wet surface.

Warnings:

Never use Solvent base cleaners on plastic, SMC, or fiberglass due to the potential of flash fire. Use only 170 AquaClean cleaner to avoid possible hazards.