

Cleaning and Maintenance

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General

VIVIX+® panels have a closed surface that is virtually pore-free making it highly impenetrable to contamination. In addition, VIVIX+ panels are highly resistant to a large number of chemicals including many different non-aggressive and aggressive cleaning agents.

Although VIVIX+ panels require minimum maintenance, it is advisable to clean the panels after installation on site and at yearly intervals or whenever the windows are being cleaned thereafter, depending on the area, type of application and the care taken with processing and assembly.

Dirt prevention

Design considerations

The effect of dirt on decorative panels varies depending on the cause. An even layer of dust, for instance, is less obvious than streaks or patches caused by rainwater running off and leaving concentrated deposits of dust and dirt. Various construction solutions exist to prevent concentrated dirt marks e.g. by

- applying fitting overhangs with water deflecting edges;
- using flat-headed fast-fixing screws for VIVIX+ panels;
- ensuring that joints do not occur above the centre of another panel.

Construction considerations

Some dirt is bound to be generated during construction, but unnecessary soiling should be avoided:

- remove any labels or stickers immediately after installation;
- mask panel edges while frames are being painted;
- remove severe stains such as paint, cement or tar immediately.

Cleaning and repairing

VIVIX+ panels may not just be affected by dust, dirty handprints or algae growth. More serious problems such as soot coating, stubborn graffiti or accidents on site may occur. A wide range of special cleaning agents specifically for these types of staining are available through third parties. Do not use cleaning agents with abrasive or polishing components. Only use clean sponges, soft nylon brushes or cloths and avoid brushes with hard rigid bristles. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions closely. Recommended concentrations and soaking times should not be exceeded. Good cleaning results will depend on how well the contamination dissolves under the influence of the cleaning agent used. Some products, such as 2-component paint systems, polyurethane, silicone or other polymers, do not dissolve, making them very difficult to remove. Incomplete removal or removal with an unsuitable product may create a permanent film on the panels. This residue may cause an uneven discolouration of the surface. Formica Group warranties do not apply in case of improper or incorrectly performed cleaning. For the use of any cleaning agent, please consider (national) safety and environmental regulations.

Shoe-polish, crayons, pencil and chalk

Even stubborn marks such as shoe polish and children's crayons are easy to clean from panels using an organic solvent. Rinse the panels with water and wipe to prevent streaks. Location codes written in pencil or chalk and those which are exposed to the weather for long periods of time are more difficult to remove.

Paint

Remove solvent based paint with an organic solvent. Rinse or wipe the panels to avoid streaks. Remove two-component paint immediately with water and/or an organic solvent. Once this type of paint has dried it cannot be removed.

Adhesives, mastic and synthetic resins

When using adhesives, mastic or synthetic resins always consult the manufacturer's instructions. Not only for the execution instructions but also to determine whether the product is suitable to achieve the desired cleaning result. Remove solvent-based products with an organic solvent. Then rinse and/or wipe to avoid streaking. Remove two-component adhesive or synthetic resin immediately with water and/or an organic solvent. Silicon mastic should be rubbed off with a dry clean cloth and any residues removed with a silicon remover. Once these products have dried, they cannot be removed.

Traces of cement and lime

These should be removed with concentrated acid cleaning agents (i.e. hydrochloric acid), then rinse the panels thoroughly with clean water and wipe them dry.

Grease and grime

Over time, rain, wind, traffic and industrial pollution will deposit a light to medium layer of dirt on panel surfaces. Depending on the degree of dirt deposited, the panels can be cleaned at yearly intervals, whenever the windows are being cleaned or longer using a window cleaning agent.

Dust, splashes of mud, oil, greasy and dirty handprints are easy to remove by washing the panels with a universal household cleaning agent. Rinse and/or wipe the panels after washing to avoid streaks.

Green growth

Algae and mosses thrive on surfaces which stay mostly cool and damp and are rarely exposed to direct sunlight. The closed surface of VIVIX+ panels, however prevents them from penetrating the surface, making them easy to wipe off.

Graffiti

VIVIX+ has a closed surface that is virtually pore-free preventing paint, varnish, adhesive, ink and other graffiti materials from penetrating. The offending items can be easily removed if they are soluble in water, otherwise use organic solvent or special graffiti cleaner. Avoid streaks by rinsing the panel and wiping dry.

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