Alesta®

Maintenance of coated surfaces

General recommendations:

- In order to retain the original appearance, thermosetting powder coatings, in common with other organic coatings, need to be treated with some basic precautions.

- Thermosetting powder coatings may be sensitive (depending on the powder coating type and it's end use) to:
  - Mechanical stresses: scratching, abrasion, scarring, impact, distortion, ...
  - Chemical attack: humidity, acids, solvents, ...
  - Physicochemical stresses: light, heat, cold, ...

- Special care should be taken with metallic finishes.

- Therefore, the cleaning of treated surfaces should be performed in line with the following points:
  - Do not use abrasive media (buffer or cutting comp[und) but only a **soft damp cloth**

  - **Recommended media:**
    - Soft sponge
    - Soft damp cloth made from non-abrasive media: cotton wool, nonwoven, lint free paper towel white color only
  - **Excluded media:**
    - Abrasive sponge, steel wool
    - Colored damp cloth
  - Do not use aggressive cleaning agents such as strong organic solvent or strongly alkaline detergent, **use water cleaning or a pH-neutral detergent followed by clean water washing and drying with an absorbent damp cloth.**
  - Be careful of water retention areas that can retain cleaning agents, ensure these are well rinsed.
  - Cleaning with high-pressure cleaning equipment (like Kärcher) must be done with care using the procedure:
    - Distance between the treated surface and the spray nozzle, pressure, type of spray nozzle (standard, rotor-type nozzle, brush)
    - Temperature, use of detergent

Some deterioration of the coated film may occur
The coated surface should be treated as if it were a vehicle body

Recommended cleaning agents:

- Clean water, soapy water
- pH-neutral detergent (pH5 to 8) + water rinse + drying

"Tolerated" agents:

- Ethanol, Isopropanol, rubbing alcohol, fuel type E & F, white spirit, undyed petroleum, window cleaning product.

Before using any cleaning agent, a short test should be done on a hidden area to ensure suitability of the agent.

Agents which must not be used:

- Abrasive products (cutting compounds)
- Alkaline detergent (pH > 9), bleach, ... (depending on concentration)
- Sulphuric, acetic, nitric, hydrochloric, oxalic acids ... (depending on concentration)
- Soda, potash, ammonia ...
- Hydrocarbon and solvents: unleaded petrol, acetone, MEK, MIBK, toluene, xylene, trichloroethylene ... nail polish remover.

Special precautions for chrome effect coatings on the cleaning of the coatings

- The chrome effect coating must be overcoated with a protective clearcoat and must be cleaned like any other finish.
- Without any protective clearcoat, the finish is very sensitive to:
  - Staining (fingerprints)
  - Humidity (oxidation of aluminium)
  - Scratch
  - Abrasion
  - Alkalis and acids
  - ...

Before using any cleaning agent, a short test should be done on a hidden area to ensure the suitability of the cleaning agent.

For information purposes only, the tables below provide further information on the compatibility of powder coated surfaces with domestic and professional products.

The free advice herein is given to you by Axalta Coating Systems France. It comes from our own experience and they are applicable to powder coatings from our company but they do not constitute in any way a warranty.
The implementation of the process remains entirely the responsibility of the final user who must ensure the suitability for his purposes.

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Household products:

Designation	Active substance	Recommended	To be used with caution	Not recommended	Comments
Acetic acid			X	On metallic finishes	Diluted use + clean water rinse
Vinegar	Acetic acid		X		
Hydrochloric acid			X		
Soda lye	Sodium hydroxide		X		
Cleaner for stove window	Potassium hydroxide		X		
Bleach	Sodium hypochlorite		X		
Oxygenated water	Hydrogen peroxide		X		
Alkali	Ammonia		X		
Acetone and derivative				X	
Nail polish remover	Ethyl acetate			X	
Unleaded petrol				X	
Gas oil and domestic fuel			X		Special precautions on strong colors + clean water rinse
White Spirit	Solvent naphtha		X		
Petrol C			X		
Household alcohol, methylated spirits	Petroleum distillates		X		
Medical spirit	Denatured ethanol		X		
Auto windshield-washer fluids	Alcohol + surfactants		X		
Coolant fluid for car	Glycol and methyl alcohol		X		
Neutral pH Household cleaner	Various surfactants	X			Diluted use + clean water rinse
Window cleaner	Surfactants + alcohol	X			
Dishwashing liquid	Various surfactants	X			
Scouring powders and creams	Abrasive powders + surfactants			X	
Automotive refinish polish	Abrasive powders + surfactants + solvent		X		Special precautions on matt finishes and strong colors

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Maintenance of coated surfaces

Professional products:

Designation	Active Substance	Recommended	To be used with caution	Formally misadvised	Comments
IPA	Isopropanol		X		Special precautions on strong colors + clean water rinse
Petrol E	Naphtha solvent		X		
Petrol F			X		
Acetone				X	
MIBK				X	
MEK				X	
Heptane				X	
Xylene				X	
Toluene				X	
Trichloroethylene				X	
Perchloroethylene				X	
Nitric acid			X	On metallic finishes	Diluted use + clean water rinse
Sulfuric acid			X		
Sealant and tar remover cleaner	Methyl andethyl acetate		X	On matt finishes	
Anti-graffiti cleaner	Butoxypropanol, terpene, solvent mixture, bases, ...			X	
Neutral pH industrial cleaner	Various surfactants	X			Diluted use + clear water rinse
Aluminium and PVC frame cleaners	Surfactants, alcohol		X		Special precautions on strong colors + clean water rinse
Powder coating refinish polish	Abrasive powders + surfactants + solvent		X		Special precautions on matt finishes and strong colors + clean water rinse

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