

Glass Cleaning Procedure for Exposure Units

Exposure units have an upper and lower glass frame with a matte finish to ensure a proper seal of the cover film to the lower glass and contact seal of the substrate to the upper glass. Over time, the matte finish can become contaminated with dust, cleaning agents, tack rag residue, and even resin. These contaminants will fill-in the matte finish and once the matte finish is gone, air will be prevented from escaping. This may result in a poor lower vacuum seal between the cover film and the negative. It may also result in a poor upper vacuum seal.

When this occurs plates may have dime-size low spots, or a Zebra pattern can also occur. To correct these problems the upper and lower glasses need to be thoroughly cleaned. The following procedure is recommended for cleaning both glasses:

Materials Needed: Lint-free towels, soft scrub solution or powder, sponge with Scotch-Brite on one side, protective gloves, safety glasses, two buckets of clean warm water, glass cleaner, and alcohol.

Cleaning Process:

1. Open the upper frame on the machine.
- 2. Turn the unit off at the main power supply.**
3. Cover the lower frame area to prevent spills and allow for easy clean up.
4. While wearing gloves and safety glasses, spray the glass with the glass cleaner. Using a sponge soaked in warm water, apply the soft scrub solution to the Scotch-Brite surface. Using small circular rotations apply the cleaning solution to the glass surface and clean the whole surface. Rinse the sponge in a separate, warm water bucket to prevent the redeposit of polymer on glass. If the glass is really dirty you may need to repeat cleaning the complete surface.
5. After cleaning, take a lint-free towel and wipe down the glass surface to remove any residue cleaning solution. Once rinsed, repeat cleaning the glass with the glass cleaner using a lint-free towel. Finally, use some alcohol soaked into the lint-free towel and repeat cleaning the glass surface.
6. Once the glass dries it should have the matte appearance again. If not repeat steps #1-5 again.
7. When cleaning the lower glass the process is the same, except the vacuum lines are covered with masking tape to prevent liquids from getting into the vacuum system.
8. If this fails to achieve a clean upper and lower glass, contact your local Anderson and Vreeland Technical Service Representative. A&V's trained personnel can perform an additional cleaning procedure referred to as "lapping". This is done with a special tool that cleans the crevasses of the glass where resin may be trapped and not accessible without the specially designed glass tool and cleaning compounds.

Safety: Please read and follow the safety recommendations for the products listed under "Materials Needed" before proceeding to clean the glasses.