

## Cleaning of Larson Low-E Glass

The Low-E coating is a pyrolitic (hard) coating which has a fine texture and a slight coating haze (haze is an inherent property of all "hard coat" low emissivity glasses; do not try to remove the haze). Due to this texture and haze, the Low-E requires different cleaning techniques than a non-coated glass surface. Over time the texture of the coating tends to accumulate more and more contaminants making cleaning difficult. Regular cleaning minimizes this accumulation.

If Low-E is used monolithically the following are AGC's recommendations for cleaning:

- Thoroughly wet the surface of the glass with plain water and rub the surface with a clean cloth or sponge to remove contaminants. Dry with a clean soft cloth or sponge. If this does not yield satisfactory results the use of a vinegar solution of 10% to 20% vinegar in water works well. Thoroughly wet the surface of the glass with this solution and with a clean soft cloth or a sponge wash the surface. After cleaning is complete use a clean soft cloth or sponge to dry the glass. Rubber squeegees are not recommended for use on the coated surface as they can leave streaks that are extremely hard to remove if the squeegee is used incorrectly or is in poor condition. Do not try to completely dry the surface as this may leave streaks. When the glass surface has only a thin film of moisture remaining stop drying the surface. The remaining moisture will evaporate.
- Commercial glass cleaners may be used, but sometimes cause smearing. Avoid cleaners containing high amounts of alcohol and ammonia. Commercially available aerosol cleaners designed specifically for cleaning glass yield acceptable results.
- **Never** use **ANY** type of scraper, plastic or metal, on the coated surface. Particles from these materials can be deposited on the coated surface. Once deposited on the surface it is very difficult to remove.
- Glazing sealant, grease, oil, tape residue and similar contaminants are **extremely difficult** to remove. A solvent must be used to remove the contaminate and then the entire lite should be cleaned as outlined above.

As mentioned earlier all pyrolitic coatings have a slight haze. This is inherent to the manufacturing process. The haze does not present a problem unless it is disturbed or marred. Hard objects, rubber blades or wheels and insufficient wetting of the surface during cleaning can all lead to marring of the haze. Disturbed/marred haze can have the appearance of broad lines, swirls and often thin lines mistaken for scratches. Once disturbed or marred the problem cannot be corrected.