

FASCIA'S, PROJECTING SIGNS AND OTHER INTERNAL METAL SIGNS

These can be cleaned using a weak solution of warm soapy water on a regular basis, with the removal of any subsequent water being removed by wiping over with a clean, dry cloth.

NB: Mirror polished stainless steel should be cleaned with a cleaning cream and a soft cloth - Satin stainless steel should be cleaned with baby oil or WD40 and worked with the grain.

On no account should chemicals be used as this could lead to future deterioration of both paintwork and adhesives used during manufacture.

VINYLS - VEHICLE / WINDOW

Vinyl films can be maintained with common automotive cleaning detergents but should comply with the following requirements: -

- free from abrasive components
- neither highly acidic or alkaline (pH preferably between 3-11).
- free from strong solvents and/or alcohol's

All cleaning activities should be executed in line with the detergent manufacturer's written instructions, especially those that relate to:

- health and safety
- diluting the concentrated detergent or cleaning fluid
- washing procedure

NB: Vinyl Film decals or graphics should not be cleaned within the first 48 hours after applications. After this initial period it is recommended that graphics should then be maintained on a monthly basis, (or more depending on user preference).

CLEANING OF GRAPHICS

Vinyl films & graphics may be cleaned using all conventional automotive washing methods. In all cases the prescribed manufacturer recommendations should be followed. Special attention should be given to length of time the graphic is in contact with the detergent. This should not be longer than prescribed recommendations. Excess detergent should be thoroughly rinsed off.

All cleaning agents shall be diluted following the instructions of the cleaning agents or detergent manufacturer. The cleaning solution should not be chemically aggressive: preferably they should range within the mild acid or mild alkaline limits (pH 3-11). Use of solvents and/or abrasive cleaning agents may damage the graphic and should therefore be avoided.

CLEANING PROCEDURE

- Check if loose dirt particles cover the graphic: in such circumstances flush with ample water to remove (loose dirt particles may scratch the surface if using brush or sponge). A low pressure hose nozzle is suitable for this job.
- The (diluted) detergent solution shall be used to wash the graphic with a sponge or mild brush. Do not move solid particles with the sponge or brush: these should be rinsed off with a hose supplying water. Wash from the top down so that the dirtiest part is well exposed to detergent
- After all dirt is removed, rinse well so that all detergent residues are removed from the graphic surface

HIGH PRESSURE OR POWER CLEANING

Avery graphics can be cleaned with high pressure cleaning equipment, provided the following conditions are respected;

- Maximum pressure 80 bars (12 00psi)
- Maximum water temperature : 70 °C (158° F)
- Minimum nozzle distance : 75 cm (30") (should be maintained between graphics and dispenser nozzle). The dispenser nozzle should preferably be aimed face-on to the graphics to be cleaned: not angled. The dispenser nozzle shall be adjusted to a 40° angle spray pattern.

WARNING Sharp angled power cleaner jets of water may damage the edges of the graphics and cause de-lamination - High pressure steam cleaning should be avoided as the extreme heat can interfere with the adhesion on the films.

REMOVAL OF DIFFICULT CONTAMINANTS

Most dirt can be removed/washed by the methods mentioned above. However, some dirt particles may stick to the graphics surface persistently. Typical stubborn dirt includes diesel oil spills, tar or other road dust (salt, rubber etc). Generally, these require stronger means to remove. Most of these dirt spots can be removed, using cloth, soaked in mild solvents such as white spirit and heptane. Thick, persisting dirt particles may firstly be removed with a soft, non damaging scraper, followed by a wipe with a soaked cloth. After the successful removal of such stains, always wash areas with water and detergent.

NB: As stronger dirt removers such as solvents may damage a (printed) graphic or even the paint surface, we recommend to test in an inconspicuous area of the graphic prior to cleaning the full graphic.

ILLUMINATION / WIRING / FLUORESCENT LAMPS / CONTROL GEAR

This is provided by a standard 240 volt supply - replacements to any of these items should only be carried out by suitably qualified personnel. If required, our installation engineers are able to carry out any future maintenance work on request.

As with all signage installations, we offer a 12 month warranty on labour & materials, but can only offer a 6 month warranty for any form of illumination fault, which is the guarantee that we receive from our electrical suppliers.

LAMP WASTE LEGISLATION

CLASSIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

This is now in place and identifies lamps containing mercury as a hazardous waste. This means that these products must be disposed of in a manner that deals with the hazardous substance. Only around 10 landfill sites throughout the UK will be licensed to accept such waste and each will have strict toxic contamination levels set by the environment agency (EA). As mercury accumulates it is unlikely that these sites will allow significant quantities of fluorescent lamps (mercury) to be dumped. It will also cost the disposer a very high price to use these dedicated landfill locations and would therefore prove uneconomic.

EA DUTY OF CARE

The EA under "Duty of Care" have classified lamp waste containing mercury as controlled waste. This means that it cannot be disposed of as general waste if generated by the commercial sector. It is estimated that around 90 – 95% of the market in the UK is commercial rather than domestic. Whenever lamps are disposed of by a commercial or public body, the environmental agency require the producer of the waste to collect a "Duty of Care" certificate as receipt for controlled waste.

THE LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

At the end of 2002 and during early 2003 the government tried to curb the quantity of waste that we send to landfill. After categorising landfills between Inert, Non Hazardous and Hazardous the UK currently has 250 sites that can accept hazardous lamp waste. The next stage is to dramatically reduce this further. Since July 16th 2004 there are only 10 UK special waste sites and this has caused huge problems for anyone considering using a system whereby lamp waste can be accepted. This has driven recycling figures up beyond all expectations.

UK SPECIAL WASTE REGULATIONS

Introduced in 2004 and already we now have guarantees that lamps containing mercury and all gas discharge lamps are going to be given "Special Waste" categorisation.

This legislation identifies lamps containing mercury as hazardous waste. This means that these products must be disposed of in a manner that deals with the hazardous substance. Only around 10 landfill sites throughout the UK will be licensed to accept such waste and each will have strict toxic contamination levels set by the Environment Agency (EA). As mercury accumulates it is unlikely that these sites will allow significant quantities of fluorescent lamps (mercury) to be dumped. It will also cost the disposer a very high price to use these dedicated landfill locations and would therefore prove uneconomic.

THE WEEE DIRECTIVE

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directive. Passed in February 2003 and effective from August 2004. It sets a target of 80% recycling of all UK lamps containing mercury. Currently in the UK only 5% of lamps are being recycled and the remaining 95 million are now to be tackled. The directive insists that the mercury content in a lamp is treated and therefore can only be done by distilling the phosphor for 14-16 hours, which means recycling, is the only option for end of life lamps. There may be an introduction of a "visible fee" from the producers who are now responsible for providing a solution for lamps. The producers current proposals are to charge a small fee when lamps are purchased so that domestic waste from households can take the lamp to a Civic Amenity site at their council (who generally only permit householders to deposit waste) and for no extra fee they will take this waste stream and pass it on to the recycling companies. In the case of businesses this "visible fee" will only offer a contribution towards the recycling costs and will not for example pay anything towards the collection of lamps from your sites or the containers, which the lamps are stored in. Additional arrangements or existing arrangements will provide this service.

THE ROHS DIRECTIVE

Restriction of Hazardous Substances (Effective from August 04). Already passed and it bans the substance that makes our competitors cringe, the mercury. Lampcare's in house distiller was purposely bought and installed to comfortably control this problem for our clients. All of the phosphor in lamps collected by Lampcare will be distilled in-house (so you can visit and carry out a waste trail audit for your duty of care inspection) and the mercury is returned to industry for reuse.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.