

Technical Bulletin

Removal of Graffiti from Si-COAT® Anti-Graffiti Coatings

Various Conditions



Introduction

The adhesion science of Si-COAT, High Performance Coatings is advanced compared to other coating products. For adhesion to a substrate, Si-COAT employs Primary Valence Attractions which are much stronger than the Secondary Valence Attractions employed by conventional coatings.

Si-COAT products are RTV silicone rubbers that cure to an elastomeric film. The elasticity of the film tends to absorb the impact of projected water directed at the surface. This, combined with the hydrophobicity of the coating, graffiti-tagging can easily be removed from protected surfaces without the need for harsh chemicals.

For best results graffiti tagging should be removed from the Si-COAT Anti-Graffiti coating as soon as possible.

1 Removing Graffiti from Si-COAT Anti-Graffiti Coated Surfaces Using Water Pressure Washing

CSL Silicones Inc. suggests using a 2,000 psi water pressure washer unit and three gallons of water per minute in order to cleanly remove graffiti tagging from a Si-COAT Anti-Graffiti coated surface. The pressure wash tip should be a 40° (white) fan tip. When operating the pressure washer, the tip of the wand should be held at a minimum distance of 12 inches from the surface. The impinging fan of water should be at about 90 degrees to the coated surface. Start at the top of the substrate (wall) and work your way down. Go over the graffiti with the pressure washer in constant motion until all of the graffiti has been removed. Do not hold the pressure washer still in one position or you could damage the coating. Since pressure washing is powerful, it should only be used on sound surfaces and proper safety precautions should be followed.

2 Removing Graffiti from Si-COAT Anti-Graffiti Coated Surfaces Using a Soft Bristle Brush and Water

For areas or conditions where a pressure washer is not suitable or for cleaning graffiti tagging or for stubborn graffiti that has been left to cure for long periods of time, a soft bristle brush and water will be suitable to remove graffiti. This method of removal is recommended during winter weather conditions when pooling of water from a pressure washer may cause safety issues due to ice formation.

Take a soft bristle brush and dip it in bucket of warm water (mild detergent may be added if desired) and scrub the tagged area, dip brush back into water and repeat. Work your way from the top of the tagging downward.



3 Spot Cleaning Graffiti from Si-COAT Anti-Graffiti Coated Surfaces Using a Damp Cloth

Due to the hydrophobicity properties of Si-COAT technologies, it is possible to remove small areas of graffiti simply by wiping them off with a damp cloth. Start at the top of the tagging that you want to remove. With a damp cloth wipe from side to side over the tagging, rinse cloth and repeat, this time wiping the cloth up and down. Repeat if necessary.

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