



BULLETIN

CORRECT CLEANING OF ACRYLIC WINDOWS



Please be aware of the detrimental effects that some chemical cleaners can have on Acrylic products, and in particular window blades used in RV manufacturing.

Recent anonymous dealer surveys were conducted to assess what information is being given to consumers with regards appropriate cleaning of window blades, and it unfortunately proved common that incorrect advice is provided with regards suitable cleaning products. In some cases the advice given is likely to cause damage.

Alcohol, certain tensides, organic solvents, softeners, to mention just a few, are considered corrosive. Furthermore such products are potentially contained in plastic care products such as polishing pastes and care products for rubber seals. Commercial window cleaners are usually made for glass not Acrylic/Perspex.

The official stance from Dometic Australia, is that only warm soapy water using dishwashing liquid in a mild solution is suitable; use plenty of water. (Use this for the window blade and the rubber gasket that rests against the blade) Do not wipe the windows dry. Talcum powder or white vaseline is OK for use on the rubber seals after cleaning.

To polish the windows after cleaning, Dometic only recommend Seitz Acrylic window polish (Order code - ZUB1343)

When cared for properly, Acrylic keeps its pore-free surface for years and does not turn yellow or brittle.

For information purposes, please refer to independent study link below showing how Acrylic products can be effected by certain chemicals.

http://www.eplastics.com/Plastic/plastics_library/Chemical-Resistance-of-Plexiglass-Acrylic

Problems that can occur include cracking of the window blades in various different ways as shown in photographs on page 2. These cracks are not a manufacturing defect within the window, but are as a result of a chemical reaction to inappropriate cleaning methods/chemicals being used. The cracks do not always appear immediately, and in fact could take months or even years to appear depending on what has been used for cleaning.

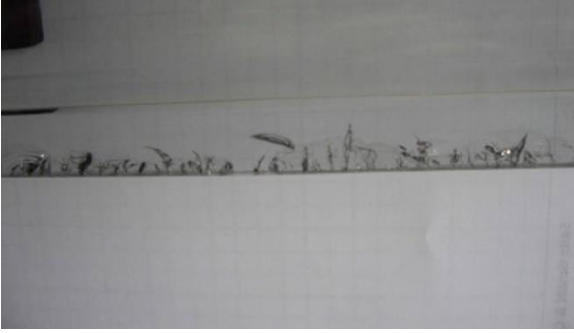
The cracks can start forming in areas under high tension, for example, in windows in the areas near the hinge profile or the catches. The formation of cracks is influenced by localised effects, time, corrosive element of the products used and the temperature. In isolated individual cases there is only a localised formation of cracks on the surface or in the corners.

When the corrosive agent is contained in the care product for rubber seals, the cracks form along the area on which the seal comes to rest against the pane.

Examples of non – compatible cleaner types:



Examples of damage caused by non - compatible chemical cleaners:



Cracks on a lower edge of an S4 window;
Cause: Concentrated leftovers of a caustic detergent after evaporation of water part.



Cracks on the inner pane in the area of the anchorage of the catch;
Cause: Caustic detergent



Destruction of a C1 window pane in the hinge area;
Cause: Corrosive agent in detergent



Large cracks in the hinge profile area – Outer pane already perforated, new cracks beginning to form on the surface, initially visible as spots;
Cause: Concentrated corrosive agent



Cracks beginning from under the hinge profile of an S7 window;
Cause: Caustic detergent concentrated under the profile.