

Tips and Useful Information for Handling & Storage

For the Professional Conservation Community



Cleaning & Removing Scratches

Optium® & StaticShield® Acrylic

Materials

- 2 Micro-fiber cloths – one for wet cleaning, one for drying. If micro-fiber cloths need to be laundered, do not use fabric softener.
- Isopropyl alcohol.
- Distilled water.
- Gloves (optional).

Wet method cleaning

- Mix water and isopropyl alcohol 1:1.
- Spray on micro-fiber cloth.
- Use cloth to clean glazing.
- Optional: dry off with second cloth.

Dry method cleaning

- Spot-clean any finger prints with the dry micro-fiber cloth by wiping in a soft, circular motion.

Alternative method of cleaning

- Non-ammonia glass cleaner may be used to clean Optium® and StaticShield™ products.
- DO NOT use acrylic cleaners or polishing agents.

Optional

- Mix a couple drops of detergent with distilled water.
- Use on micro-fiber cloth to clean surface of glazing.
- Rinse with distilled water to ensure removal of any detergent residue and dry off with second cloth.

Removing Scratches

- Do not hand polish or buff scratches in this product as it may cause damage to the coating.
- Abrasion-resistant properties prevent mild scratching, but not deep scratches.
- Cuts by hard objects cannot be repaired.

Conservation Clear® Acrylic

Cleaning

- Use a clean, damp cleaning cloth.
- Apply only light pressure.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Dry off with second cloth.
- Do NOT use window cleaning sprays, kitchen scouring compounds, or solvents such as acetone, gasoline, or lacquer thinner to clean acrylic materials.

Removing Scratches

- Fine scratches can be removed by hand polishing with a recommended acrylic polish or paste wax. Apply polish to a soft cloth and rub. When the scratches have disappeared, remove all residue and polish.

Conservation Reflection Control® Acrylic

Dry method cleaning

- Spot-clean any finger prints with the dry micro-fiber cloth by wiping in a soft, circular motion.

Alternative method of cleaning

- Mild soap and water solution may be used if dry cleaning is not effective.
- DO NOT use acrylic cleaners or polishing agents.
- DO NOT use window cleaning sprays, kitchen scouring compounds, or solvents such as acetone, gasoline, or lacquer thinner to clean acrylic materials.

Removing Scratches

- Do not hand polish or buff scratches in this product as it may cause damage to the sheet.

Storage & Shipping

All Acrylic Products

Storage

- Avoid storing in areas where condensation might occur.
- The masking should be left on the sheet during storage and fabrication to prevent damage. If the protective film masking has been removed, use 2-ply rag board or pH neutral paper for interleaf during storage. Proper interleaving during storage enables reuse.
- If the acrylic sheets are stored vertically, care must be taken to avoid warping. Sheets must stand with an angle of no more than 10 degrees from the vertical and fully supported to prevent bowing or falling.
- The masking should never be exposed to excessive sunlight or outdoor conditions for extended periods of time.
- If storing sheets horizontally, stack the larger sheets at the bottom to prevent bowing.
- Acrylic sheet should not be stored near radiators, steam pipes, in direct sunlight, or near other heat sources as excessive heat tends to soften and deform the sheet.
- Acrylic glazing is not effected by standard museum environments or normal warehouse temperatures, and can withstand extreme temperatures of minus 30 degrees F (-34 degrees C) to 140 degrees F (60 degrees C) when shipping. Excessive temperatures are not recommended for long-term storage.
- If storing framed pieces, please note that acrylic expands and contracts, so allow for size variation in frame systems.

Shipping

- If shipping framed pieces horizontally, be sure to accommodate for flexing of the sheet to avoid vibration or rubbing against the surface of the artwork.
- Works glazed with acrylic need no film/glass skin when shipping.
- Allow 24 hours for climatizing before exhibiting. Condensation will leave water spots on the coatings.

Cutting

Optium® & StaticShield™ Acrylic

Cutting

- Leave the protective masking on the sheet when cutting.
- Gauges up to 4.5mm can be cut with the same methods used to cut other acrylic or "plexi", using a multi-material cutter "scribe and break" method. Score the sheet multiple times and then snap to break.
- Gauges 6.0mm and above can be fabricated with a power saw and saw blade specifically designed to cut acrylic. Contact us for blade recommendations.
- Optium® Acrylic Glazing and StaticShield® should NOT be cut with a laser. The extreme heat can cause crazing, which may lead to delamination of the coating.

Tips for Choosing Glazing

	Optium Museum Acrylic®			Optium Acrylic®	StaticShield® Acrylic		Conservation Clear® Acrylic	Conservation Reflection Control® Acrylic
	6.0mm	4.5mm	3.0mm	3.0mm	4.5mm	3.0mm	3.0mm	3.0mm
For 40" x 40" or smaller (1016mm x 1016mm)			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
40" x 40" to 60" x 60" (1016mm x 1016mm to 1524mm x 1524mm)		✓			✓			
Above 60" x 60" (1524mm x 1524mm)	✓							
For optimal viewing without distracting mirror-like reflections	✓	✓	✓	✓				
For matte-like, non-glare viewing								✓
For friable media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
For abrasion resistant protection when traveling or high-traffic areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
For UV Protection	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

anti-reflective

anti-static

abrasion resistant

UV protection

crystal clear

