

Removing Dried Finishes, Sealants, Borates and Cleaners from Surfaces.

Our stains and sealants are all water-based. When they are still wet, most clean up easily with soap and water. That sounds so simple, but most of the time, it is the best method to use for cleaning wet, uncured products off windows, gutters, downspouts and other surfaces. However, there are occasions when other techniques are required to remove dried products from wood or other surfaces. Soap and water will not remove dried or cured products. Before using any cleaner on a large area, always test the cleaner on a small spot. Since every situation is different, it is best to determine if the cleaner will cause any detrimental effects, i.e. discoloring the surface.

All Interior and Exterior stains and Advance™ Topcoats

If you are working on small areas at a time, it is not difficult to carry a damp rag to wipe off any product that gets onto surfaces that you do not want stained or top-coated. But if you are using an airless sprayer and overspray gets on other surfaces, there is a good chance that the product will dry before you get a chance to wipe it off. If the stain or topcoat has been on for less than an hour, isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol may remove it, but if it has had enough time to cure, it will probably require something stronger. The most effective group of products for removing dried finishes are automotive glass cleaners available at most automotive supply stores. There are several brands of aerosol foam cleaners that work, but be sure that removing bugs, grime and tar is on the label. These cleaners will probably do a good job. A foaming type product will assure the cleaner does not quickly run off the surface. If you are attempting to remove the stain or topcoat off a painted surface be sure to test it first on a small section.



Examples of some products that can be used to clean interior and exterior finishes and Advance™ off windows and other smooth surfaces. Note: None of these products are endorsed by Perma-Chink Systems, Inc.

Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ and Perma-Chink®

These sealants contain an aggregate that gives them their texture. If the sealant gets on a smooth, slick surface it can easily be removed with a damp rag. However, if a clump gets on a rough surface like bare or stained wood, the aggregates and polymer will get imbedded in minute nooks and crannies on the surface, and becomes very difficult to completely wipe off. Usually smearing over a wider area. If the wood was bare, once stained the spot may stick out from the surrounding area since the sealant residue will change the porosity of the wood. It is sometimes better to allow the Perma-Chink®, Energy Seal™ or Woodsman™ time to partially cure and then try to roll it off with your thumb and fingers.

Once these sealants fully cure they become very difficult to remove from just about any surface. The best way to remove them from a hard smooth surfaces is to scrape them off with a single edge razor blade. If they cure on bare or stained wood they are almost impossible to remove without doing some damage to the surface and the finish. Cured Perma-Chink®, Energy Seal™ and Woodsman™ are impervious to most solvents, but if you want to soften them for easier removal you can use a commercially available paint stripper. **Note:** read and obey the directions and all safety precautions. You will need to apply enough to saturate the sealant. It is best to cover the sealant with a plastic film to keep the cleaner from evaporating too fast. When the sealant softens you can try removing it with a scraper or stiff nylon bristled brush. Do not use a wire brush. No matter which method you used to remove Perma-Chink®, Energy Seal™ or Woodsman™, if the surface was stained you will need to do some touch-up work. Sand the spots with 60 or 80 grit sandpaper, then touch-up using a rag rather than a brush.

Check Mate 2®

Since this smooth surfaced sealant contain no aggregate, it is much easier to remove with a wet rag as long as it is done quickly. However, once it cures, you will need to use the same techniques as removing cured Perma-Chink®, Energy Seal™ or Woodsman™.

Log End Seal™

Wet Log End Seal™ is fairly easy to remove using just water, but once it cures it becomes just about impossible to remove without physically grinding or sanding. The problem is that since it is a soft polymer, it will quickly clog the sandpaper or a sanding disk. The best tool to use is a WoodShark. If the teeth of the Wood Shark become filled with polymer, it can be burned away with a blowtorch. A Wood Shark can be reused indefinitely.

Borates, Wood ReNew™ and Log Wash™

Borates (Shell-Guard® Concentrate, Shell-Guard® RTU and Armor-Guard®), Wood ReNew™ and Log Wash™ are all water soluble but if not adequately rinsed off of glass or painted surfaces, they can leave a white haze. The best way to remove any borate, Wood ReNew™ or Log Wash™ residue is with warm water. Do not add any ammonia, soap or detergent. Once the residue is washed off you can use a commercial glass cleaner to remove any streaks.

M-Balm™ and E-Wood™

These products are two component epoxies that are not water soluble, so soap and water will not have much effect on them. You can use white vinegar to clean up the individual components or even mixed material before it cures. To remove cured M-Balm™ and E-Wood™ you have no choice but to grind or sand it off. That is not difficult with E-Wood™ putty, but since M-Balm™ soaks into the wood surface sanding will still leave the wood impregnated with epoxy and prevent that area from properly taking a stain.