

# Care and Cleaning of Vinyl Coated Fabrics

## Galaxy

Vinyl requires periodic cleaning to maintain its neat appearance and to prevent the build-up of dirt and contaminants that may permanently stain and reduce the life of the vinyl if they are not removed. The frequency of cleaning depends upon the amount of use and environmental conditions to which the vinyl is subjected. Vinyl upholstery will absorb stains and dyes from fabrics the "crock" or bleed, for example blue denim or bright prints. A vinyl protective finish, sold in furniture or automotive stores, may help to protect the upholstery by resisting or retarding the absorption of these stains. Some household cleaners and solvents remove plasticizers from vinyl making it brittle.

The procedures used for cleaning are dependant upon the end use circumstances.

### **For Normal Cleaning**

In general, most stains can be easily cleaned using warm, soapy water and clear water rinses. Moderate scrubbing with a medium bristle brush will help loosen soiling materials from the depressions of embossed surfaces. For more stubborn stains, use the following commercially available mild detergents in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions:

### **Vyva Cleaner**

See instructions Vyva Cleaner.

### **Note**

Detergents should never be used on a regular basis for normal cleaning. We recommend repeated rinsing with clear water after any cleaning procedure.

Full strength rubbing alcohol or mineral spirits may be tried cautiously as a last resort on very stubborn stains, if the above suggestions do not work. Indiscriminate use of any solvent, or solvent containing cleaner, can severely damage or discolor vinyls.

### **Bleach and Antiseptic Surface Treatment** (for products specified as bleach cleanable)

Bleach can be diluted up to a 9:1 ratio (10%). Liberally apply diluted disinfectant using a sponge. Rinse with cold water several times. Wipe dry. Repeat if necessary.

Federal regulations require that guidelines on the bleach label need to be followed for antiseptic or antimicrobial purposes.

### **Other Common Stains**

Certain stains may become permanently set unless they are removed immediately. The procedure for the removal of the more severe staining agents are outlined below.

### **Ballpoint Pen, Permanent Marker**

Ink spots will stain vinyl permanently. Immediate wiping with rubbing alcohol in a well ventilated area will remove much of the stain.

### **Oil Based Paint**

The use of turpentine in a well ventilated area will remove any fresh paint. Dried paint must be moistened carefully with a semi-solid gel-type stripper so that the softened paint can be gently scraped away. Rinse with soap and water.

### **Caution**

Direct contact with paint strippers will remove the print pattern from vinyl. Paint strippers are very corrosive. Take care to avoid skin contact by wearing protection.

### **Latex Paint**

Fresh paint can be wiped off with a damp cloth. Hot, soapy water will normally remove dried latex.

### **Tar, Asphalt**

Remove immediately, as prolonged contact will result in permanent staining. Use a cloth lightly dampened with mineral spirits and rub the stain gently, working from the outer edge of the stain towards the center in order to prevent spreading. Rinse with soap and water.

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