

## 1. Introduction

This cleaning advice is specifically intended for EQUITONE façade sheets used for façade applications. A number of basic principles are given that must be adhered to. For variations or additional advice one can always contact your local Technical Support. Cleaning must always take place in accordance with the conditions of the supplier of the cleaning system and under his supervision and guarantee conditions.

For product data and the details of the processing of the various panels reference is made to the product information sheets available from local Technical Support

## 2. The Soiling Process

Dust, soot, oils, greasy substances, etc. are present in the air and rainwater and can deposit on a façade. If care is taken (the provision of drip-moulding, good sealing and attention for corrodible materials such as zinc, copper, aluminium, steel, etc.) local soiling and runs can be avoided. The degree and speed at which materials become soiled largely depends on their surface, chemical stability, hardness, porosity, ability to become electrostatically charged or not, etc.

All façades, irrespective of the material used, should be serviced regularly. Then, unnecessary and high costs are avoided in the long term. The building also retains its continuous and attractive appearance. If one allows the soiling to work into the materials for too long, it is possible that it will have penetrated so deeply into the pores of the material that simple cleaning is no longer possible.

## 3. Cleaning Method

There are two methods of cleaning façades:

- mechanical cleaning
- chemical cleaning

Etex Facade has developed a chemical cleaning procedure on the basis of cleaning products from HENKEL SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES.

The dirt is first soaked loose by the cleaning products, and then removed by water and energy (high pressure or friction).

The cleaning product is diluted with water in the proportions specified in the technical file and according to the degree of soiling, and applied to the surface to be cleaned by means of:

- a brush
- a hand atomizer
- a spraying appliance.

The slightly foaming mixture must be allowed to work in for 4 to 10 minutes, depending on the nature of the surface and the degree of soiling. One must however make sure that the product does not dry into the surface. A maximum of 10 minutes after the application of the cleaning product rinse copiously with:

- a high pressure cleaner with clean water at a maximum pressure of 125 bar and a maximum flow rate of 10 litres/minute. One must spray perpendicular to the surface at a distance of at least 25 cm. If spraying takes place at excessive pressure or a too short distance this can cause damage. A sander may not be used.
- a sponge or cloth

With stubborn staining (e.g. the edges of the sheets, runs of iron and aluminium oxides, traces of silicon sealing, etc.) the cleaning product is applied undiluted with a soft scourer and rubbed in, before everything is rinsed with clean water.

Façade parts that can be affected by the cleaning product must be protected.

## 4. Henkel Cleaning Products

The following cleaning products are recommended by HENKEL.

HENKEL Surface Technologies Benelux nv

Contact : Ruth Van Cauwenberge

Havenlaan 11, Avenue du Port

B-1080 BRUSSELS

Belgium

Tel. : 0032 (0)2 421 25 71

Fax : 0032 (0)2 421 25 52

[www.henkel.be](http://www.henkel.be)

## P3-GRATO 1166

P3-GRATO 1166 is an acidic cleaning product with the following properties:

- Liquid
- Resin and other synthetic materials are not affected
- Removal of mineral soiling, iron oxide, aluminium oxide
- Contains no sulphuric acid, nitric acid, oxalic acid, hydrochloric acid or hydrogen fluorides
- Not suitable for cleaning zinc. Affects steel and copper alloys with a longer period contact.
- Dilution:  
for stubborn soiling: 1 part P3-GRATO 1166 in 4 parts water;  
for normal soiling: 1 part P3-GRATO 1166 in 10 parts water.
- Temperature: of the surface must be at least + 5°C.
- Foam: with brush, hand atomizer, spraying appliance (acid-resistant). Rub in thoroughly in with an acid-resistant brush.
- Rinsing: always rinse the foamed surface areas thoroughly with clean water.

- Precautions:  
technical measures need not be taken with correct use  
personal measures are necessary such as wearing gloves and safety glasses  
with contact with the eyes and skin, immediately rinse with copious  
amounts of water. If necessary seek medical advice.
- Packing: in 5, 10 and 30 litre drums
- Storage : at temperatures between - 20°C and + 50°C for the not-diluted  
solution.

## CARCLIN SUPER ACTIVE 1

CARCLIN SUPER ACTIVE 1 is an alkaline cleaning product with the following properties.

- Liquid
- Alkaline cleaner
- Resin and other synthetic materials are not affected.
- Removes mineral soiling, iron oxide, aluminium oxide.
- Affects zinc and copper alloys with a longer period of contact
- Dilution:  
for stubborn soiling: 1 part Carclin SUPER ACTIVE 1 in 4 parts water  
for normal soiling: 1 part Carclin SUPER ACTIVE 1 in 10 parts water
- Temperature: of the surface must be at least + 5°C.
- Foam: with brush, hand atomizer, spraying appliance (alkaline-resistant).  
Rub in thoroughly in with an alkali-resistant brush.
- Rinsing: always rinse the foamed surface areas thoroughly with clean  
water
- Precautions:  
technical measures need not be taken with correct use  
personal measures are necessary such as wearing gloves and safety glasses  
with contact with the eyes or skin, immediately rinse with copious  
amounts of water. If necessary seek medical advice.
- Packing: in 5, 25 and 200 litre drums
- Storage : temperatures between - 20°C and + 50°C for not-diluted solution

## 5. Lime Scumming or Efflorescence

Lime scumming or efflorescence can be avoided by handling the sheets in the correct way.

The sheets must be stacked in a dry ventilated space. The sheets must always be protected from rain. During storage the synthetic film may not be removed; the foil is only removed with use. If the sheets do become wet in the packing, all packaging must be removed and the sheets must be rubbed dry and placed in a way that they can dry out thoroughly.

If lime scumming still occurs, one can remove it with a light acid solution, only applied to the sheet (not to glass, aluminium, etc.).

## Scalegon Liquid

- Soak the surface with water to prevent the acid solution to be applied from penetrating the sheet.
- apply 10% SCALEGON LIQUID solution
- clean with copious amounts of clean water
- packing: in containers of 1 litre and 10 litre

## 6. Cutting and Drilling

Sawing and drilling must take place in a dry environment. Sawings and drillings must be immediately removed from the sheet with a dry microfibre cloth. Sawings and drillings that are not removed can cause permanent stains.

## 7. Information

Information on the different applications can be found in the Etex Façade application guidelines. They can be found on the website or can be obtained from local support. Information about external suppliers can also be downloaded from the local websites.

### Disclaimer

The information in this Material Information Sheet is correct at time issuing. However, due to our committed program of continuous material and system development we reserve the right to amend or alter the information contained therein without prior notice. Please contact your local EQUITONE Sales Organization to ensure you have the most current version.

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