

Tech Tip 108

Exposure Unit Glass Cleaning

The matte finish on the upper and lower glass plates of MacDermid liquid photopolymer systems exposure units can fill in with contaminants such as airborne dusts, cleaning agents, photopolymer, or other undesirable residues. Eventually the fill-in will cause the glass to look as though the matte finish has worn off. If the glass is not cleaned, the matte finish loses its effectiveness and does not allow all the air to escape from between the upper glass and the substrate during vacuum drawdown. Because the substrate seals at the vacuum grooves on the outside edges, air will be trapped and will create a dent or low spot in the finished plate. These defects can range in size from dime-sized to relatively large areas. To eliminate these occurrences, the following cleaning procedure is recommended.

MATERIALS NEEDED

A commercial degreaser, mixed per manufacturers instructions
Lint-free towels
Rubber, chemical resistant gloves
Glass cleaner
Bucket of water
Safety glasses

CLEANING PROCEDURE

- 1) Open the upper frame of the platemaker.
- 2) **TURN OFF THE MAIN POWER SUPPLY.**
- 3) Wearing gloves and safety glasses, and using lint-free towels, thoroughly clean both the upper and lower glass of the exposure unit with liberal amounts of the degreaser solution.
- 4) Thoroughly rinse both glass plates with water-soaked, lint-free towels.
- 5) When dry, clean the glass plates with glass cleaner to eliminate residual streaks.

Note: If this procedure fails to produce an evenly frosted (matte) finish on the glass, contact your MacDermid Technical Representative to schedule glass lapping.

PRODUCT SAFETY

Read and understand the manufacturers' Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) before using any of these products.

