

Sanitizing Acrylic and Plexiglass Panels to Protect Against COVID-19

While there are many ways to clean plexiglass or acrylic, some are more effective than others and help promote the longevity and clarity of your panels. When this type of clear plastic becomes dirty or begins to appear dull, you can bet it's time to give it a little TLC. Some heavier cleaning processes may require tools, however, frequent cleanings should keep the workload light and allow you to use materials you already have around you to clean. Refer to this guide to find out all the best tricks and tips for cleaning acrylic.

Easy Clean

Before you begin cleaning your acrylic or plexiglass panel or blemishes or dirt, it is wise to clear the area of any debris, accessories, or other objects that may obstruct your working space. Always use a micro-fiber cloth, to avoid damaging your panel, with soapy water to clean the entire surface area. After wetting the cloth, be sure to work by lightly blotting the surface rather than applying too much pressure as you wipe. By aggressively rubbing the plexiglass or acrylic, you may accidentally scratch the surface. After you have wiped the entire piece of acrylic, use the dry side of the cloth to buff the area and remove any lingering liquid or suds. Buffing or polishing the plexiglass surface reduces the risk of future stains, allowing for more time between cleanings. Let sit for a moment before checking for any remaining streaks, if any are left over, rewet the cloth and dry again.



Choose Carefully: There are a couple of cleaning items that you'll want to stay away from. In fact, using the wrong cleaning product can completely damage your acrylic displays to the point that they become unusable!

- Do not use paper towels because they will not remove scratches and may even cause them. Stick with micro-fiber type of cloth.
- Avoid ammonia based products, like Windex or other home glass cleaners, because they contain harmful chemicals that will actually damage the surface leaving it cloudy looking. Soapy water is the safest and most effective cleaning solution for acrylic.

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In the midst of a pandemic, it is vital to maintain a healthy, sterile environment for both employees and customers alike. COVID-19 has changed the face of business for organizations

nationwide, and preventative measures must be taken daily in order to help prevent the spread of infectious disease. Many companies have implemented the use of protective acrylic or plexiglass sneeze guards, also known as splash shields, or clear hanging banners to create a barrier between customers and employees. These fixtures must be cleaned regularly, less harmful germs and bacteria are bound to fester, especially in locations that do not mandate citizens to wear masks in public.

How to clean acrylic and plexiglass sneeze guards?

- Wipe down your acrylic panel as often as possible, at least between each shift, but ideally multiple times throughout the day. We suggest using cleaning wipes with at least 70% alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, bleach, isopropyl alcohol or ethyl alcohol, or other acrylic approved disinfectants.
- Use a microfiber cloth in order to avoid leaving scratches in your plexiglass panels, which would give harmful bacteria more nooks to hide away in and grow. Recent studies have shown that using microfiber cloth eliminates 99% of harmful bacteria, microbes and spores. If surfaces are visibly dirty, they should be cleaned gently using warm water and dish washing soap prior to disinfection.
- Be sure to wear disposable gloves when cleaning or disinfecting surfaces, not only to protect your skin against harsh chemicals, but to prevent accidental contamination of viruses and bacteria. Gloves should be discarded into the trash after each use.
- Prolonged exposure to cleaning materials can cause clear acrylic to stiffen, crack, or become hazy, so it is vital to properly wipe down and dry your sneeze guard after each cleaning in order to maintain the highest quality fixture.
- It is important to mention that you should never use window cleaners or other disinfectants that contain ammonia, such as Windex, as these products will do more harm than good.

Note that there are key differences between cleaning and disinfecting a plexiglass or acrylic splash guard. **Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection. **Disinfecting** refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. It is the responsibility of business owners nationwide to practice safe social distancing measures and to make serious efforts to protect their employees and customers alike. Showing your patrons that your coronavirus response can be taken seriously will go the distance in alleviating any social stresses they may have in a public space. Clean and disinfect your social distancing tools such as clear vinyl banners, acrylic shields, and splash guards often to maintain the healthiest environment for all.