

Removing Silicone Contamination on Self-Cleaning Glass

Technical
Guide

Most of the time, installations of self-cleaning glass are problem-free. However, in some cases, self-cleaning glass does not work as expected.

Self-cleaning glass is a specific type of glass with a surface that keeps itself free of dirt and grime and has a special hydrophilic and photocatalytic coating. When self-cleaning glass fails, it is rarely the coating that is to blame, as it is produced in state-of-the-art coat plants.

Any issues experienced are usually due to external factors, such as contamination of the face of the glass. Contamination is caused by many things such as tree sap, heavy dust, or silicone from the installation process.

For a video on the subject, click [here](#).

How do I remove silicone contamination from self-cleaning glass?

Silicone contamination can happen if it drips from the application gun or fingerprints are left on the glass during the installation process. When this happens, silicone should be left to dry and then peeled off the glass. Knives and abrasive actions should not be used to scrape the silicone as they can damage the coating.

Instead, the contaminated area should be cleaned with methylated spirits, ensuring that the spirit is not spread over large areas of the glass surface. The contaminated area may benefit from ongoing treatment using silicone eaters.

Below is a video illustrating the effect of self-cleaning glass when its external face has been contaminated with silicone. The coating of self-cleaning glass works by repelling water to stop dirt and grime from sticking to the glass. The water forms droplets or beads that roll off the glass and take the contaminants along the way, leaving a clear surface area. Silicone contaminated self-cleaning glass doesn't 'bead' and instead 'sheets'. This is one of the most common issues with installations incorporating self-cleaning glass.