

# Caring for your Acrylic or Polycarbonate

## Storage

Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheeting must not be placed in contact with heating coils, radiators, hot water and steam pipes. Acrylic and Polycarbonate sheeting must also be kept away from certain Chemicals and their solutions which are harmful.

Special care must be taken to protect them from being scratched over the surface, this could be by a clean cloth to keep dust and other foreign objects off of the sheet/s. Excess moisture and temperature variation can also cause troubles such as deforming and difficulty of removing the masking paper. Sheets must not be stored outdoors.

## Cleaning

To clean the surface of your Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheeting it is better to use plenty of soap and water with a very soft cloth or sponge. Rubbing with a dry cloth builds up an electrostatic charge on the plastic so that it attracts dust particles from the air. Never use lacquer thinner, gasoline, acetone, alcohol, benzene or carbon tetrachloride because these are harmful to your sheeting.

To prevent water spots, thoroughly dry the sheeting with a chamois or moist sponge. Do not use abrasive cleaners. Avoid cleaning in direct sunlight to prevent streaking.

These following cleaning agents are compatible with Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheeting when used according to the manufacturer's recommendation:

- Formula 409
- Top Job, Joy
- Palmolive Liquid
- Windex D with Ammonia D

## Handling

Handle with care to avoid scratching. If the surface is scratched, the proper polishing agent must be used in buffing and hand-polishing.

The masking/ protective paper should be kept on until it must be removed for heating and/or forming operations.

### Masking/ Protective Paper

The pressure sensitive glue on the masking/ protective paper is sticky but does not remain on the surface of the Acrylic or Polycarbonate Sheeting. If any trace of it is found on the surface of the sheet, remove it with a dilute solution of methanol. The masking/ protective sheeting is difficult to remove if it is exposed to sunlight and the atmosphere for ten (10) days.

The masking/ protective paper can be peeled off from one corner with a finger nail. It is recommended that the paper be rolled up on a tube of acrylic, cardboard or aluminum, for example. Such a tube should be longer than the width of the acrylic or polycarbonate.

## Protective Coatings

After forming or shaping the Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheeting it should be covered with a soft cotton flannel cloth (preferable of white colour) to protect it from being scratched.

There are some making compounds which may be spread on the Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheeting and be removed later.

Is it convenient to use such masking compounds as a spray not only for formed articles but for lettering.

But remember that such spray masking compounds often contain chemical solvents which are harmful to Acrylic or Polycarbonate and some of them cannot be removed after aging.