

General Tedlar® Cleanability & Stain Removal Information

General

This guide is intended to show the stain resistance of vinyl wall covering clad with *Tedlar*® SP polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) film and assist the wall covering manufacturer and specifier in product selection, lamination, and quality control of wall coverings clad with *Tedlar*® SP.

This information is believed to be the best currently available and is offered to help in your own experimentation and evaluation. This information will be revised as additional experience and information are developed.

Cleanability

Outstanding stain resistance and cleanability are unique features of vinyl-based wall covering material protected with *Tedlar*® SP PVF film. Staining agents likely to be encountered in high-traffic areas of hospitals, schools, office buildings, hotels, and other densely populated structures will not affect the *Tedlar*® SP finish. More importantly, the stains can easily be removed with an appropriate cleaning agent.

Stain Removal

The procedures for removing stains from vinyl-based wall covering protected with *Tedlar*® SP can be divided into three categories depending upon the staining agent. In all cases cleaners should be applied generously using a soft cloth with very light pressure to avoid polishing the stained area.

1. Easy Procedures (Cloth Only, Wet or Dry)

Tedlar® SP is easier to clean than other protective materials. Thus, many staining agents can simply be wiped from the wall covering with either a wet or dry cloth.

2. Mild Procedures (Soaps, Household Detergents)

Some staining agents, such as common lipstick or ballpoint pen ink, require the use of warm, full strength solutions of standard household detergents such as Fantastik®. These stains should be removed with a soft cloth and detergent solution, and given a final rinse of clear water to effect maximum stain removal.

3. Moderate Procedures (Solvents)

Many staining agents, especially those with heavy oil or grease bases, will require the use of a solvent for removal. To remove asphalt, tar, road oil, grease, fresh paint, or caulking compounds from wall coverings protected with *Tedlar*® SP PVF film, use a good grade of mineral spirits, kerosene, naphtha, turpentine, or commercial automotive or road-oil removal agent. Follow the procedure with a detergent rinse and a clear water rinse. Commercial fabric cleaning fluids may also be used to remove stains from agents such as chewing gum or marking pen ink. Or, for the most stubborn stains, solvents such as acetone, toluene, or methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) may be used.

The stain resistance and cleanability characteristics of *Tedlar*® SP PVF film have been tested in many real life conditions, particularly those where the staining agent has been permitted to “set” on the wall covering for 24 hours or more. Laboratory tests confirm that *Tedlar*® SP PVF film is resistant to staining agents, easy to clean, and will not fade or streak even after heavy cleaning. Stain removal test results for *Tedlar*® SP PVF film are shown in Table 1.

General Tedlar® Cleanability & Stain Removal Information

Table 1
Stain Removal Tests for Vinyl Wall Covering Clad with *Tedlar*® SP PVF Film

Staining Agent*	Dry Cloth	Wet Cloth	Spray Cleaner	91% Propanol	MEK
Worcestershire Sauce	S	R			
Black Crayon			R		
Brown Shoe Polish	S	S	R		
Chocolate Syrup	S	R			
Lipstick	S	S	R		
Calamine Lotion	S	R			
Tea		R			
Iodine	S	R			
Mercurochrome		S	R		
Catsup		S	R		
Grape Juice	S	R			
Spray Paint				S	R
Brake Fluid	S	R			
Mustard	S	R			
Red Wine		R			
Asphalt			R		
Coffee	S	R			
Betadine	S	R			
Sodium Hydroxide	R				
30% Sulfuric Acid	R				
20% Hydrochloric Acid	R				
10% Nitric Acid	R				
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	R				
Gasoline	R				
Toluene	R				
Acetone	R				
Glacial Acetic Acid	R				
10% Citric Acid	R				
Ethylene Glycol	R				
Ethyl Alcohol	R				

*Staining agents were allowed to set 24 hours prior to cleaning.

S = Left Slight Shadow After Cleaning

R = Stain Completely Removed