

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

ACRYLIC SKYLIGHTS

Columbia skylights are made from the highest quality extruded acrylic supplied from leading North American manufacturers. The skylight's expected life, with regular maintenance, is in excess of twenty years. There are other overseas acrylic suppliers providing lesser quality material that has a shorter lifespan and may yellow and craze. Regardless of the source of the material, polycarbonate skylights can also yellow over time.

Columbia acrylic skylight products should be cleaned periodically. A regular cleaning program of once or twice a year will prevent any noticeable weathering of the plastic skylight lens.



The procedure for field cleaning is to:

1. Pre-rinse the T lens to remove excess grit and dust particles, etc.
2. Using a clean, soft cloth or sponge, with a mixture of mild household detergent consisting of 80% lukewarm water and 20% liquid detergent, wash the skylight.
3. Finish with a high power cold water rinse.
4. Dry with a chamois or moist cellulose sponge to prevent water spots.

Note: Plastic cleaners such as Novus or Meguiar's Mirror Glaze plastic polish, provide a good waxed finish for your plastic skylight products.

CAUTION

1. DO NOT use abrasive or highly alkaline cleaners on Columbia acrylic skylights.
2. NEVER use benzene, gasoline, acetone, or carbon tetrachloride on our skylights.
3. DO NOT use cleaning liquids that contain abrasives or powder cleaners such as Comet, Spic'n'Span, Soft Scrub, etc.
4. DO NOT clean the skylight in the hot sun (or direct sunlight) or at elevated temperatures.
5. DO NOT clean plastic lens excessively and/or at short time intervals; clean only as required. This will assure you many years of clarity and gloss to the skylight.
6. DO NOT use squeegees or applicators that can trap stones or grit.

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GLASS SKYLIGHTS

Safety should always be considered when cleaning your Columbia skylight. Skylights are not designed to support the weight of humans. Never try to stretch out to a surface for cleaning by leaning away from the ladder. Use safety equipment appropriate for the situation.

Interior

- Mild soap & water solution should be your first option.
- Flat glass – new no-drip or foaming formulas a good idea for skylights.

Vinyl frame

- Citrus-based cleaners (less than 20% d-Limonene; dilute with water if needed) good for greasy stains.
- Tough stains (paints, wood stains, etc.) can be removed with mild abrasive cleaners.

Insect screens – Disengage from unit

- Vacuum or brush off dust.
- Wash with soapy water and rinse off with hose.

Other (stained wood, paneling, etc.) – verify effect of cleaning agents with surfaces with the surrounding surfaces. Do not overspray, rather moisten cloth with the cleaner and pass over surface to be cleaned.

Exterior

- High pressure wash is not recommended.
- Glass glazing – same procedure as interior.
- Pine pitch & tar – citrus-based cleaners can often do a good job (Do not use concentrated cleaning agents – dilute with water and test first on a small, inconspicuous area).
- Kerosene is OK if other methods don't work.

Vinyl frame – same procedure as interior.

Metal retainer frame

- Soap & water, most household spray cleaners (Keep away from plastic surfaces).
- Car wax can be applied annually to maintain the original gloss of the retainer frame.
- Clean any leaves, needles, or other debris from around the skylight every fall to minimize the chance for ice buildup in the winter.

