

# CLEANING LABORATORY EVALUATION SUMMARY

SCL #: 1997  
 DateRun: 07/02/1997  
 Experimenters: Andrew Bray  
 ClientType: Aluminum Anodizing Job Shop  
 ProjectNumber: Project #1  
 Substrates: Aluminum  
 PartType: Coupon  
 Contaminants: Waxes  
 Cleaning Methods: Vapor Degreasing  
 Analytical Methods: Gravimetric, Visual  
 Purpose: Evaluate using aqueous cleaner as 1st rinse

**Experimental Procedure:** This experiment was designed to explore the possible advantages of using an aqueous cleaner or wax stripper in the first rinse bath. The wax removal performed by the cleaning solutions may allow for much lower rinse temperatures and subsequently, significant energy and water cost savings. The wax strippers were tested at two concentrations to remain consistent with earlier tests. The cleaning procedure used was as follows: 212 F steam cleaning for fifteen minutes; 150 F agitated immersion wash for fifteen minutes; 150 F agitated tap water rinse for ten minutes; 150 F second agitated tap water rinse for five minutes. The six cleaning solutions tested are:  
 50% Super Blue Non-Ammoniated Stripper  
 100% Super Blue Non-Ammoniated Stripper  
 50% Zap Stripper  
 100% Zap Stripper  
 10% Inproclean #3800  
 2% Alconox Alcojet  
 When the cleaning procedures were completed, the coupons were placed in an oven at 120 F for thirty minutes to speed the drying process. The coupons were allowed to return to ambient temperature overnight before further inspection.  
 SUBSTRATE MATERIAL: Aluminum 5052 Coupons  
 CONTAMINANTS: Mobilewax 2305  
 CONTAMINATING PROCESS USED: Coupons contaminated at Aluminum Anodizing Job Shop by dipping into vat of masking wax and allowing wax to cure

**Results:** Similar to earlier tests, the steam was effective at leaving the bulk of the wax. In this trial the steam was stationary and was continually contacting the coupons in one area. In this area the wax appeared to be completely removed. The cleaning solutions performed additional removal but did not completely remove the visible wax. The Super Blue Non-Ammoniated Stripper and the Zap Stripper appeared to etch the coupons. No wax appeared to be removed in either rinse bath for any of the test coupons.

| Gravimetric Analysis | Mass Initial | Mass Cont. | After Cleaning | Percent Removed |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 50% Super Blue       | 21.4245      | 25.3131    | 21.6810        | 93.40           |
| 100% Super Blue      | 21.5535      | 24.7147    | 21.8019        | 92.14           |
| 50% Zap              | 21.4079      | 24.7543    | 21.7640        | 89.36           |
| 100% Zap             | 21.3784      | 24.3804    | 21.7537        | 87.50           |
| 2% Alcojet           | 21.5248      | 24.8413    | 21.7211        | 94.08           |
| 10% Inproclean       | 21.5810      | 25.0603    | 21.8087        | 93.46           |

**Summary:**

|                      |                                    |               |                    |                          |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Substrates:</b>   | Aluminum                           |               |                    |                          |                      |
| <b>Contaminants:</b> | Waxes                              |               |                    |                          |                      |
| <b>Company Name:</b> | <b>Product Name:</b>               | <b>Conc.:</b> | <b>Efficiency:</b> | <b>Effective:</b>        | <b>Observations:</b> |
| Water                | Steam                              | 100           | 0.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Oakite Products      | Inproclean 3800                    | 10            | 0.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Alconox Inc          | Alcojet                            | 2             | 0.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Don Garland Inc      | Zap Ammoniated Stripper            | 100           | 0.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Don Garland Inc      | Zap Ammoniated Stripper            | 50            | 0.00               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Don Garland Inc      | Super Blue Non Ammoniated Stripper | 100           | 0.00               |                          |                      |

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|                 |                                    |    |      |                          |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----|------|--------------------------|--|
|                 |                                    |    |      | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Don Garland Inc | Super Blue Non Ammoniated Stripper | 50 | 0.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |

**Conclusion:**

From visual observations made on the coupons cleaned in Super Blue Non- Ammoniated Stripper and Zap Stripper, it appeared that these cleaners etched the aluminum test coupons under the conditions of this experiment. Alconox Alcojet and Inproclean 3800 performed similarly. None of the test solutions were effective at removing the visible wax that remained after steam cleaning. Contact Angle Goniometry and Optical Sensor Electron Emission were not viable evaluation options for this trial, as the surfaces all coupons remained thoroughly contaminated at the end of the cleaning trial. It should be noted that, due to the difference in lab steaming procedures and those proposed for Aluminum Anodizing Job Shop's new cleaning system, it is difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of these cleaners at removing trace amounts of wax. In the lab trials to date, a visible layer of wax has remained on the coupons after the steam-cleaning step. However, in the initial steam cleaning trial performed at Aluminum Anodizing Job Shop, all visible wax was removed. Because this was not the case with lab trials performed at the Surface Cleaning Lab, conclusions may not be drawn as to the effectiveness of Alcojet and Inproclean at removing trace amounts of wax. The initial test bars cleaned at Aluminum Anodizing Job Shop will be cleaned in these two aqueous cleaners at various temperatures to further explore their ability to trace wax residue.