

ASTM D6578-00 test



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ASTM D6578-00 standard practice determines products' cleanability level

D6578-00, "Standard Practice for Determination of Graffiti Resistance," was developed by D01.46 to evaluate the graffiti resistance of coatings using a series of laboratory tests.

The ASTM practice identifies four commonly used graffiti marking materials: a solvent-based ink marker, a solvent-based spray paint, a water-based ink marker, and a blue or black wax crayon. Other marking materials can be applied with a mutual agreement between the graffiti-resistant coating supplier and the user.

To perform the laboratory test, the coating is applied to aluminum panels and allowed to dry per the manufacturer's recommendations. The graffiti material is then applied. The coating is considered "repellent" if the marking material does not wet out the test surface. If the marking material does wet out the surface, different cleaning agents are used to try and remove it. The removal procedure is very specific and requires the use of either a straight-line washability apparatus used to determine the washability of coatings, or a manual approach with a lint-free cotton cloth soaked in the cleaning agent and wrapped around a cellulose sponge.

The cleaning agents are used in a particular order of increasing aggressiveness to determine which one removes the graffiti. The order consists of a dry cloth, a 1% solution of a mild detergent, a citrus cleaner, isopropanol (rubbing alcohol), and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). The Cleanability Level is determined by the agent that first removes the graffiti. A Cleanability Level 1 means that the graffiti material is removed with a dry cloth; Cleanability Level 2 is removal with a mild detergent, etc. There are limits placed on the maximum loss in gloss and change in color of the coating to obtain each level of rating. In other words, the cleaning agent must not damage the coating to such an extent that it would be too noticeable.

The next time that a salesman comes with a coating that is touted as "graffiti-resistant" or "graffiti-repellant," ask him if the product was tested in accordance with D6578 and what Cleanability Level was achieved.