

Waterbased Coating – Anilox Cleaning Procedure

Scope

- Preserving anilox cell volume/capacity is an integral part of the coating process, ensuring that the proper amount of coating is being consistently applied, and the desired coating characteristics are being achieved.
- Whether anilox cell contamination occurs over a period of normal use or from a single poor cleaning, the results can be a reduced cell volume and an insufficient amount of coating being applied to the substrate.
- The overall consequences can be poor coating performance, reduced job quality and potential waste from defects.
- To ensure the anilox cells are kept in optimum condition and to promote overall coating quality and performance, regular anilox cleaning should be employed as part of the press scheduled maintenance program – the use of a regular anilox cleaning program will help keep the coating results predictable, reliable and of the highest quality.

Daily Cleaning

- For daily cleaning of the anilox roll, clean the anilox using hot water and water/alcohol mix, water/ammonia mix or a designated liquid coating cleaner such as INXCAC 501 Cleaner.
- Rinse the anilox roll thoroughly with hot water to ensure all residual coating has been removed from the cells, then wipe the roll surface with a soft cloth using the water/alcohol mix, water/ammonia mix or liquid coating cleaner.
- Dry the anilox with a soft cloth – do not allow the anilox to remain wet prior to end-of-use/storage.

Deep Cleaning

Materials

- Anilox Brush
 - Ceramic Anilox: use steel anilox brush
 - Chrome Anilox: use brass anilox brush
- Liquid Anilox Cleaner: **INXCAC 501 Cleaner**
- Paste Anilox Cleaner: **INXCAC Cylinder Magic**
- Soft cloth
- PPE
 - Eye Protection
 - Hand/skin Protection

Procedure – After General Cleaning

- 1) Apply liquid coating cleaner to a cloth and liberally coat the anilox roll surface completely.
- 2) Using the anilox brush, lightly scrub the anilox surface using a circular motion – scrub the entire anilox roll.
- 3) Wipe the anilox roll surface clean with dry cloth.
- 4) Apply paste cleaner to a rag and liberally coat the anilox roll surface completely, making certain to push the cleaning paste into the anilox cells – cleaning paste can be mixed with small amount of cleaner liquid for easier handling.
- 5) Using the anilox brush, lightly scrub the anilox surface using a circular motion, pushing the cleaning paste into the anilox cells – push the paste into the anilox cells rather than remove the paste.
- 6) Allow the cleaning paste to remain on the anilox for 20 minutes.
- 7) Using the anilox brush, scrub the anilox surface using a circular motion and moderate pressure, making certain to scrub the entire anilox roll.
- 8) Apply the liquid cleaner to a cloth and wipe the anilox roll surface completely to remove any residual anilox paste.
- 9) Wet cloth with hot water and wipe the entire anilox roll surface clean removing any residue - IF the anilox is installed in the press, run a cleaning program using hot water.
- 10) Using a dry cloth, dry the anilox roll completely.