

WALL WASHING

PAINTED

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section covers the cleaning of interior walls that are finished with enamels, flat, semi-gloss and gloss paints, and the painted type washable wall coverings.

1.02 It is reissued to delete Paragraph 5 of Issue 3 covering the tool method as the tools are no longer available. Also to recommend pyrophosphate cleaner instead of soap for spot washing and to replace steel wool with scouring powder.

1.03 Pyrophosphate cleaner is recommended for washing walls. It is most effective when the pyrophosphate solution is permitted to remain in contact with the surface being cleaned for a few minutes, before rubbing to remove the dirt. Such procedure, in addition to producing better results, also substantially reduces the effort required to do the job.

1.04 Pyrophosphate cleaner has about the same degree of alkalinity as high grade toilet soap and will not injure normal skin in the recommended concentrations even upon prolonged use. However, a few individuals may be allergic to the cleaner and in these cases the hands should be protected by wearing suitable rubber gloves. Pyrophosphate cleaner generates heat on going into solution and for this reason it should be placed in the pail of water by means of a tablespoon. Contact of the wet hands and dry powder should be avoided since a burning sensation, which is of a thermal rather than a chemical nature, may result.

1.05 There are two classifications of wall washing covered by this section.

(a) Spot washing - cleaning of specific soiled areas such as finger marks about doors, columns, lighting switches, etc.

(b) Over-all cleaning - removal of general dirt accumulations to restore an over-all clean appearance.

1.06 Ceilings, when finished the same as the walls, are washed in the same manner.

1.07 It is important that precautions be taken to fully protect dial and other telephone equipment during the cleaning activities. The nature and extent of the safeguards should be arranged with the cooperation of the person in charge of the equipment.

2. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

2.01 For spot cleaning

1 pail (Twin Type)
Sponges or pieces of terry cloth
Pyrophosphate cleaner
Scouring powder, if necessary
Utility cloths (sweeping cloths in switch-rooms)

2.02 For over-all jobs

Drop cloths
Stepladders or scaffolding
2 pails
Sponges or pieces of terry cloth
Pyrophosphate cleaner
Scouring powder, if necessary

3. PROCEDURE - SPOT WASHING

3.01 Spot washing is done as required as indicated by evidence of finger marks, smudges, pencil marks and other defacements on walls, columns, partitions and door jambs.

3.02 In one side of a two compartment pail prepare two or more quarts of pyrophosphate cleaning solution using one level teaspoonful of pyrophosphate cleaner per quart of water. The pyrophosphate cleaner should be completely dissolved in the water, stirring it if necessary. Clean water for rinsing is placed in the other side of the pail.

3.03 A sponge or cloth is immersed in the pyrophosphate solution and wrung thoroughly so that the solution does not drip when applied to the wall. The sponge or cloth arranged in pad form is applied to the soiled areas, rubbing with a circular motion and light pressure until the dirt is removed. The rubbing is tapered off about the edges of the area being cleaned so that it will blend in with the surrounding wall area.

3.04 Where the dirt is so imbedded that the cleaning solution does not remove it, a very small quantity of scouring powder is sprinkled on the washing tool and rubbed lightly over the area. Care must be taken to avoid cutting too deeply into the paint film and the rubbing should be carefully tapered toward the edges of the area to minimize contrast with the surrounding wall.

3.05 Before the cleaned area has dried, rinse with a clean sponge or cloth which has been immersed in the clean water and wrung as dry as possible, again taking care to taper off at the edges.

3.06 After the washed areas are thoroughly dry, if they appear conspicuously dull compared with the unwashed sections, buffing with a clean dry cloth aids in blending the over-all appearance. When this operation is done in terminal or switchrooms the sweeping cloth (identified by a reinforced center hole) shall be used.

4. PROCEDURE - OVER-ALL WASHING

4.01 Ladders and scaffolding shall be in good condition and shall be carefully placed to insure safety. Stepladders should be used in accordance with the safety precautions given in Bell System Practice Section H51.201 "Step Ladders - Use and Care" always making certain that they are fully opened and the braces engaged. Scaffold planking should extend at least one foot beyond the supporting point and in stairwells it should be lashed.

4.02 Tarpaulins or drop cloths shall be used to protect equipment, furniture and floors as may be necessary. Extreme care shall be taken when using water around telephone and electrical equipment. Wall washing about such equipment should be done only with the cooperation of the person in charge of the equipment.

4.03 Move furniture away from the wall where the work is to be performed. This is done as the work progresses and is replaced as soon as the area is finished.

4.04 For flat, semi-gloss and gloss paints and enamels, a solution of one to two tablespoonfuls of pyrophosphate cleaner to a pail (10 quarts) of water, preferably warm, is used. The pyrophosphate cleaner should be sprinkled into the water to avoid caking and should be stirred until dissolved. The concentration is dependent upon the character and the degree of dirt, the nature of the wall surface and in some localities upon the hardness of the water. Lesser concentrations are usually required for washable wall coverings as their surfaces are usually relatively smooth and their coatings are less porous than painted plaster walls.

4.05 It is important that special care be taken in washing mottle-toned, blended and other special finishes or any finish having an overglaze to avoid the possibility of damage to the design. One to two tablespoonfuls of pyrophosphate cleaner should be used.

However, where there is question regarding possible damage to the finish, small trial sections in remote areas should be tried before proceeding with the over-all job. If the surface appears to be unduly attacked by the pyrophosphate solution a tablespoonful of powdered soap per pail of water may be tried.

4.06 Two pails and two sponges, or, if preferred, two pieces of terry cloth are used; one for the cleaning solution and washing sponge or cloth and the other for the clean water and rinse sponge or cloth. The cleaning solution should be changed often enough to maintain full cleaning effectiveness and to avoid resmearing the accumulated dirt over the surfaces being cleaned. The rinse water also should be changed frequently as it has an important bearing on the brightness of the finished results and on avoidance of streaking.

4.07 Walls are usually washed in three sections about 4 ft. by 5 ft. beginning normally at the baseboard and working upwards. This procedure avoids streaks which may result if the cleaning solution runs down over uncleaned areas. Such streaks are hard to remove.

4.08 The solution is applied with the sponge or cloth wrung sufficiently to avoid dripping or running. It is applied over an area of about ten or twelve square feet, simply wetting the surface without rubbing to remove the dirt. After the section has been covered, repeat the operation, rubbing, if necessary, to remove the dirt.

4.09 For deeply imbedded and tenacious dirt spots scouring powder sparingly sprinkled on the sponge or cloth is rubbed lightly over the spots using a circular motion. Care must be taken to avoid cutting too deeply into the paint film and the rubbing should be tapered toward the edges of the area to minimize contrast.

4.10 Immediately following the washing operation and before the wall has become dry, rinse the section washed with a clean sponge or cloth which has been wrung as dry as possible.

5. CARE OF TOOLS

5.01 Clean all tools and equipment after use, in the building service quarters.

5.02 Clean all buckets and sponges and restore them to their proper places.

5.03 Brush all superficial dust from drop cloths with a counter dust brush and fold them carefully before storing them.

5.04 Damp wipe all ladders and scaffolding and store them in their proper places.