



Australian Glass and Window Association (AGWA) has developed this document to outline general cleaning guidelines and key points one needs to consider for the care and maintenance of a shower screen. By adopting the following elementary guidelines, one can expect to cherish the elegance and functionality of a quality shower screen without the worry of frequent replacement.

The durable properties of glass combined with its aesthetic elegance have made it a common household building material when it comes to shower screen applications. However, like other building materials, it is also susceptible to degradation over time. It is composed of various components notably, glass, hardware and frame materials. The ongoing maintenance of these components plays a vital role in the visual and structural performance of the shower screen. Proper care and maintenance reduces the risk of potential water spots and mineral deposits. It also ensures the product lives up to its potential service life.

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:

For daily maintenance:

The simplest way to keep the shower screen free of potentially damaging water spots and mineral deposits is to squeegee all its components (glass, hardware and frame) after every use.

Note: Please bear in mind that in some cases continuous wetting and drying may cause an increase in the alkalinity of the glass surface initiating 'glass corrosion'. This may give rise to noticeable cloudy appearances.

For routine maintenance:

- Remove any dirt or debris from the glass, hardware and frame as soon as it is visible. Flood the surface with water or cleaning solutions to remove loose dust and grit.
- Never use an abrasive cleanser of any kind on any component of the shower screen, including glass, hardware and frame to prevent damage or permanent scratching. Also, please be aware of wearing diamond rings or jewellery as they can easily scratch the glass.
- If using a cleaning solution, do not allow it to remain on any surface as this may cause permanent marking. For a cleaning solution, preferably use only warm mild soapy water which is ph neutral.
- Rinse all surfaces thoroughly with clean water.
- Dry immediately with a clean lint-free cloth or good clean squeegee.
- Do not allow metal squeegee holders to touch the glass surface as scratching may occur.
- For best results, always clean the glass beginning at the top and working downwards.
- Mechanical fixing/hardware should periodically be checked for looseness as it can cause misalignment of panels resulting in possible glass breakage and/or expanded gaps leading to undesirable water egress.

POINTS TO NOTE FOR NEW APPLICATIONS:

- Please note, if silicone sealant is applied as a part of the installation, it is advised not to wet and use the shower screen during the curing period of the sealant. As a rule of thumb, for new installations, silicone drying time is 1mm every 24 hour.
- For enhanced protection of shower screens, special hydrophobic coatings can be applied to the glass by the manufacturer at the time of purchase/installation which can reduce the amount of cleaning required.



Fig 1 Frameless Shower Screen
©Stegbar

Disclaimer: This key message has been developed to provide general guidance, awareness and education to AGWA members only. It should not be viewed as a definitive guide and should be read in conjunction with the requirements of the National Construction Code (Visit www.abcb.gov.au). While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate the AGWA expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person for anything done in reliance on this publication. No responsibility is accepted by the AGWA for any mistakes, errors or omissions in this publication.