

PPG Automotive Equipment Cleaning Guidelines

Purchasing Valves

New pre-lubricated valves that will be in direct contact with PPG materials have been the source of low surface tension contamination leading to the crater defect in the coating.

It is important to purchase only 'dry' valves that have not been pre-lubricated. The supplier's maintenance and engineering groups should establish requirements with their valve vendor(s) to ensure that silicones (polysiloxanes) and perfluoropolyethers (PFPE) are not used as lubricants on the new valves.

Equipment Pre-Cleaning

All new or repaired processing equipment should be pre-cleaned before putting into service. Pre-cleaning should be done for any equipment that is in direct contact with materials for PPG's coatings. Indirect equipment where incidental contact is possible should also be included in the scope of this cleaning requirement

Equipment such as valves, transfer lines, hoses, piping, manifolds, pumps, mixing blades, and all vessels/containers should be included.

Plastic, rubber, and synthetic rubber parts such as gaskets and disposable faucets can be contaminated with release agent. These types of parts should be rinsed in solvent prior to use.

Pre-Cleaning Guidelines

Equipment should be soaked or wiped down with a strong solvent or solvent blend. For example, a 50/50 blend of Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) and Xylene would clean effectively.

For equipment intended for use with water-based product, Butyl Acetate (BA) can be used for cleaning, followed by a thorough rinse of de-ionized water.

When pre-cleaning liquid valves, they should be disassembled to clean. If this is not possible, repeat the open/close positions numerous times to ensure that all moving parts have been de-contaminated.

When installing equipment, use only lubricants or sealing materials that are on the PPG Materials Registration List (MRL) and/or have been crater tested and approved by PPG.

