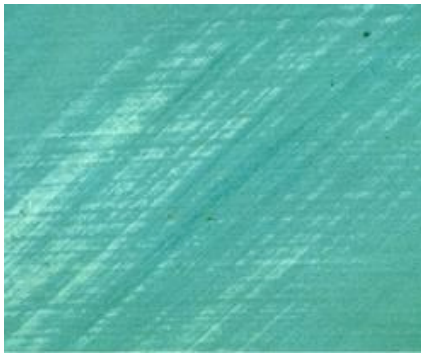


TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Burnishing

What is Burnishing?

Burnishing refers to an area of the film surface that shows an increase in the gloss or sheen level resulting from washing or spot cleaning. It is usually more noticeable on surfaces where a flat or lower sheen paint is applied.



What causes Burnishing?

Burnishing occurs generally as a result of washing, scrubbing, and spot cleaning. Flat and lower sheen paints must have a rough, broken surface profile in order to diffuse incidental light and produce their low sheen. This surface profile is produced by extender pigments in the paint film which protrude from the film's surface. Any form of brushing, rubbing, or cleaning can physically break off the pigment nodes protruding from the film's surface leaving a smoother, glossier area. Burnishing will also show up to a greater degree in darker or more heavily pigmented colors.

How can Burnishing be minimized?

Burnishing can be minimized by using a paint with a higher sheen level as it is usually more noticeable with flat and lower sheen paints. If a painted surface has to be washed, only mild liquid detergent and water should be used and not abrasive cleaners or cleaning materials. There should also be a minimum two week curing period after the application of the paint before the surface is washed.

Is there a solution?

Once Burnishing has occurred on a paint film, the first option is to attempt to touch up the area. However, to fully eliminate the condition, it may be necessary to apply an additional finish coat.

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