

### Cleaning Signs with Harsh Disinfectants & Cleaners?

In preparing cleaning plans and procedures for your interior signs, we recommend first considering the anticipated frequency the signs will be touched. Although tactile, ADA-compliant signs are designed for touch, in reality, these features of signs are rarely used. Given the minimal direct contact with signs in most environments (with the exception of certain healthcare and changeable slide signs), whenever possible, we recommend not cleaning or treating signs with harsh cleaners or disinfectants as one would with door knobs, handrails, restroom fixtures and the like. Rather, in most cases, caring for interior signs as one would interior artwork is more sensible and will likely equate to a longer life for your signs' finishes and graphics.

### Preferred Cleaning Instructions

With regards to creating specific cleaning instructions for interior signs, a one-size-fits-all approach is extremely challenging due to the virtually countless variables involved:

- 1st surface or subsurface finishes and graphics?
- painted finishes, laminates and/or direct-print?
- paper inserts?
- what cleaning products are being used, with what cleaning techniques and how often?

With so many variables, our *general, preferred cleaning instructions are to clean signs by wiping with a soft, lint free, damp cloth, taking care to wipe gently, not rub. Using a very mild solution of liquid hand soap and lukewarmwater is optional. If cleaning with liquid and/or damp cloth, take care not to make contact with any subsurface, paper sign displays as they may be damaged by the moisture.*

### Testing Results of APCO Interior Products with a Range of Cleaning Products

Realizing our preferred cleaning instructions may not be realistic in all situations, although we don't recommend other cleaning methods, we are confident in the durability of most interior APCO sign products to withstand a reasonable level of cleaning with many, common cleaning agents.

For a 6-month period in 2020-2021, APCO cleaned a range of our interior sign products 3-4 times per week with some commonly-used cleaning products, and **we saw no negative impacts on finishes or ink adhesion**. These inhouse tests will continue.

#### Cleaning Agents Used

- Formula 409® Multi-Surface Cleaner
- Mixture of OdoBan®, Isopropyl Alcohol & BNC-15® Disinfectant & Cleaner/Sanitizer
- Clorox Healthcare® Fuzion®
- aero® Surface Disinfectant (compare with Lysol®)

#### Product Types Cleaned

- 1st Surface Painted Acrylic with 1st Surface Flatbed-Print Graphics
- 1st Surface Painted Acrylic with 1st Surface DP-Tactile Raised Characters & Braille
- Painted Acrylic with 1st Surface Flatbed-Print Decorative Wood Background Image
- Unpainted, Non-Glare Acrylic with DP-Tactile Raised Characters & Braille
- Satin Anodized Aluminum with Flatbed-Print Graphics
- Satin Anodized Aluminum with DP-Tactile Raised Characters & Braille