



## FORMED PLASTIC MAINTENANCE

### Plastic Colors

As a general rule, most plastics will require some routine cleaning (every few months) to retain their original luster. Pigmented colors do contain UV stabilizers to slow down natural fading due to exposure to the harmful UV rays. Painted colors also contain UV inhibitors and will also lose some original luster when exposed in exterior applications. This "fading" will vary based on color and installation location, as the hot desert sun will fade most colors faster than exposure in more northern climates.

### Cleaning Plastic

Using warm, soapy water and a soft cloth or sponge best performs routine cleaning of plastics and painted plastics. Based on the local atmosphere, cleaning every few months is recommended. Locations such as industrial parks or inner city installations may require more frequent cleaning as the air quality will effect the cleanliness of the letters. Never clean plastic letters with any harsh detergent or chemicals as this will dull (matte) the finish.

### Repairing Plastic Scratches

Scratches in letters can be a distraction, especially with interior installations. Smaller scratches can be minimized by first washing the letter, then lightly wiping the scratch with a soft cloth that has been dampened with isopropyl alcohol. Once cleaned, lightly flame the scratch by quickly heating with a small propane torch. This will soften the plastic and possibly fill in the scratch. Be careful not to hold the flame on the letter too long as it will burn or catch fire.

### Repairing Paint Scratches

Scratches in letters can be a distraction, especially with interior installations. Smaller scratches can be minimized by first washing the letter, then applying car wax and buffing the scratch with a soft cloth. Deeper scratches can be removed by wet sanding with extra fine grit sandpaper. Sand the scratch, wipe dry with a soft cloth and apply a liquid paste such as Finesse-it to the scratch. Buff out the scratch with an auto paint repair buffing wheel. Deep scratches that cannot be buffed out will have to be sanded with 1200 grit paper, then re-painted.