



Tech Talk From

Prisco®

Tech Talk #C6

ANILOX ROLLER CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

There are two types of Anilox rollers available for the coating unit. One type is chrome and the other is ceramic. Both require proper cleaning and maintenance. In this Tech Talk, we will discuss some cleaning methods that are recommended for anilox rollers.

Daily wash-up and cleaning is required in order to prevent dry coating, paper debris and ink from being deposited in the cells of the anilox roller. A clogged anilox roller results in a gradual decrease in aqueous coating film thickness. Decreased film thickness can cause offsetting, picking and reduced rub resistance of the finished work. A wet film of 0.8 to 1.2 pounds per thousand square feet of stock is recommended.

CERAMIC ANILOX:

For daily washing and cleaning of a ceramic anilox roller the following are required:

- Stainless steel brush (use in circular motion on the roller)
- Prisco Aqueous Coating Cleaner
- Thorough rinse with warm water

It is not recommended to use a detergent with a pH higher than 10.5. Detergents with higher alkalinity may damage the roller. If a detergent is used that exceeds a pH of 10.5, large volumes of warm water should be used to rinse the anilox roller after the cleaning process.

CHROME ANILOX:

For daily washing and cleaning of the chrome anilox roller the following are required:

- Brass brush (use in circular motion on the roller)
- Prisco Aqueous Coating Cleaner
- Thorough rinse with warm water

The same recommendation for the detergent applies to the cleaning of the chrome anilox.

Even with proper daily cleaning and maintenance of the anilox roller, it is not uncommon for the cells to gradually clog over an extended period of time. A preventative maintenance schedule is recommended to super-clean the anilox roller. The method that is most recommended is to "vacuum-blast" the roller with a soda solution. Another procedure is to remove the anilox roller and place it in an ultrasonic bath with a cleaning detergent. This method, however, may be damaging to the chrome anilox roller. A periodic "super-cleaning" is an important part of maintaining optimum performance of the coating unit. Consult with your roller manufacturer for other maintenance procedures.

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