

Cleaning Instructions

<http://fabresinworks.com/cleaningtips.pdf>

Critical steps to take as soon as you're parts arrive. The most often overlooked and most important step is to clean the parts of any possible mold release before working with them.

Removing a silicone-based release agent from your cured urethane casting is not easy.

Here are a few steps you can use to remove the release agent.

Soap – Wipe or brush the casting with a soap that has high alkali content. Cascade™ brand dishwashing gel is highly alkaline and also contains baking soda, which is an advantage. You can also use Bleach White Tire Cleaner.

Solvents – Wipe or brush the casting with 91% or 70% Isopropyl Alcohol. Important; follow all safety precautions when using flammable liquids.

As soon as you receive your parts, you must thoroughly clean them before painting. Get a dishpan or container large enough to submerge your part. Fill with lukewarm water. Use the soap method first as described above. When satisfied with your cleaning, rinse well to remove all traces of soap. Let air dry till completely dry.

When dry you can take a cotton cloth or paper towel lightly saturated with isopropyl alcohol and wipe entire surface. This should remove any lingering traces of release agent.

You are now ready to prepare your piece for paint. Check for any imperfections that have to be repaired. Use 320 grit wet/dry paper to sand out any protruding blemishes. If you see any dimples you can rough them up with the point of a #11 X-acto blade and fill with putty. Scuff entire surface with a Grey Scuff Pad. When done, remove all dust with a damp cloth soaked with alcohol.

To fill dimples you can use super glue. Personally I like to fill with 2 part glazing putty made by Bondo. If using the Bondo method, it's better to first prime the piece. Sand and Prime until desired results are achieved. When satisfied with your results you can then prime and paint your entire casting.

Customers contact us regularly asking which primer works best as a foundation for painting their resin castings. To settle the question once and for all, we tested over 30 aerosol primers and found that most did not work, or worked poorly at best.

The low-quality primer would "bead up" on the surface of the casting.

Two primers did stand out, providing excellent adhesion and the best for painting.

Plasti-Kote™ Sandable Primer – can be found at auto supply stores in the U.S. Contact: Plasti-Kote in Medina, OH Tel. 800 431 5928 or <http://www.plastikote.com/products/Primer/Sandable-Primer.html>

Bulldog™ Adhesion Promoter - Contact: W.M. Barr Co. in Memphis, TN Tel. 800 398 3892 or www.wmbarr.com. Or order online at www.levineautoparts.com

After primer has completely dried, the casting may be painted with acrylic paint or similar paint products. Model train paints (available at many hobby stores) work well. I have good luck with using lacquers over the primed surface. Some testing for paint compatibility may be necessary.

