

RENO BROTHERS

RENOVATION EXPERTS MATT AND SIMON JUDKINS SHOW YOU THE WAY TO MAKE DIY EASIER



1 Apply the cleaner and remove any dirt.

2 After the glass has been polished, re-cleaned and polished again, spray it with EnduroShield.

3 The cleaning and polishing process is repeated again.

4 Continue wiping the surface until the cloth slides easily.

5 Allow the glass to cure for eight hours before it comes into contact with liquid.



Stop the smears

THE increasing popularity of frameless shower screens in bathrooms — and glass and mirrored splash-backs in kitchens — has coincided with an increase in the number of emails asking us the best way to keep these fixtures clean.

On shower screens, the problem is a build-up of soap scum, while food and oil are creating a mess in the kitchen. The problem is not only the initial difficulty of cleaning the surfaces, but also keeping them clean and decreasing the regularity of cleaning. For instance, soapy water can settle on unprotected glass shower screens. When dry, it creates a grimy stain.

Detergents, sugar soap, glass cleaners or a diluted mix of methylated spirits are all great cleaning solutions, but they don't help to protect the glass and decrease the regularity of cleaning.

A permanent protective coating for shower screens, splash-backs and any other glass surface, such as windows, helps to bead water off glass and allow other items to be easily cleaned off the surface.

There are a variety of protective coating solutions available that leave an ultra-thin, transparent film completely on the glass. The coating helps repel water and oil-based dirt and stains, greatly reducing the need to

Glass looks great in kitchens and bathrooms, but only if it is clean

clean. They also allow for easier cleaning, requiring only water and mild detergents rather than harsh detergents, which may damage the glass over time.

This is particularly important because shower screens, glass and mirrored splash-backs are visual features of bathrooms and kitchens.

But it's the application process that determines their effectiveness.

MATERIALS

Protective coating cleaning kits. These usually contain the initial cleaning solution, protective coating solution, fine steel wool, polishing cloth and latex gloves. Most kits will clean 3-6sq m of glass or mirrored surface.

HOW MUCH

The protective cleaning kits range in price between \$60 to \$196 per kit.

STEP ONE

To obtain the maximum benefit, the surface to be coated must be thoroughly cleaned before application of any protective coating, removing all soap scum, mineral deposits and dirt build-

up. Working in a well-lit and ventilated area, you should apply the cleaning solution to only a small section of glass, say 1-2sq m. Scrub the sprayed area using steel wool with light to moderate pressure. Be sure not to use steel wool on dry glass as it may scratch the glass. It's important to make sure the glass is completely clean, so be sure to inspect the glass from different angles. It'll highlight those areas that need the most work.

STEP TWO

Once cleaned, polish the area with a clean rag or paper towel until all streaks are gone and the glass has a shiny, new appearance.

STEP THREE

Move to the next section of glass that requires cleaning. Be sure to overlap the previously cleaned area to ensure all areas that require cleaning are covered. Repeat the process over the entire glass.

STEP FOUR

Now that the glass has been cleaned, you'll need to spray a

medium mist of the protective fluid over an area of glass, say 1-2sq m. If the sprayed area starts to drip, too much protective coating has been applied.

STEP FIVE

Use the polishing cloth, usually provided in the cleaning kit, to wipe over the sprayed area from side to side. Make sure that the protective coating is evenly spread over the area.

Be careful not to miss any edges or corners — this is a common mistake.

When you begin to spread the protective coating it may appear oily and cloudy. However continue to polish the area until it is clear. Continue wiping the surface until the cloth glides easily and continue this process until the entire glass surface has been treated.

Remember, don't rush the wiping process. Polishing the treated areas well will help to provide a more complete job. You'll normally be required to allow the glass to cure for eight to 10 hours before it comes in contact with water or chemicals. In future, cleaning should be a breeze. But remember, don't use any rough, gritty or abrasive cleaners as doing so may damage the coating.