

DSS-Ch.04.03 | Chemical Attack / Etch / Reaction

Degreaser / Alkaline Cleaner “Burn”

Chemical - high-pH cleaner exposure; grainy/milky micro-texture in wipe/run geometries

Diagnosis summary

Degreaser/alkaline cleaner “burn” is an appearance change or etch caused by high-pH cleaners (e.g., strong degreasers, builders, ammonia/amine blends) contacting glass and dwell/drying on the surface. It presents as milky/grainy micro-texture in wipe vectors, sheeted runs, or pool halos. Classification is appearance-only per VIS (method-agnostic). Inspect after Non-Invasive Reveal under VIS lighting/geometry;

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- SC-1 (slight) to SC-2 (clear) on etched lanes/fields after reveal.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a representative interior area; polymer stylus if a coating is suspected. Do not “scrub-probe.” MSRT supports classification only.
- Visual signature

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by appearance + MSRT + morphology (three-part cueing). Depth ranges are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-2 (Light): Subtle grain in narrow wipe lanes; SC-1; limited impact at standard view. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Clear detect (SC-2) across broader wipe networks or sheeting fields; legible at standard distance; overlap lines distinct. Indicative relief: ~40-120 µm.
- CAT-4 (Severe): Pronounced milky/grainy matte over large areas (e.g., entire panel wiped and dried in sun); obvious at standard & wide-field views. Indicative relief: ~120-300 µm+.
- CAT-5 (by condition/location): Between-pane/inaccessible by parallax, integrity indicators (active cracks, pane movement), or confirmed functional-coating loss on the surface to be worked → CAT-5 (out of).

Distinguishing criteria

- vs.
- vs. Mineral staining/etch (Ch.03): Mineral issues reflect spray arcs/rings/runoff; alkaline cleaner burn aligns with wipe vectors or broad sprayed sheets and building operations.
- vs. Mechanical swirls (M.02.01): Abrasive swirls show arcs/tracks with edge sparkle; alkaline burn reads as non-directional grain without discrete pathing.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; include raking macros resolving grain and overlap/run edges; add context frames (cleaning supplies, janitorial/kitchen).
- MSRT result: One light, non-marring pass on etched interior; record SC-class (SC-1/SC-2). Polymer stylus if coating is suspected.
- Forms: Pane ID; product family & surface numbering; worked surface Y/N; functional coating present on worked surface?

Safety / repairability boundary: Complete only the non-invasive reveal and inspection steps authorized by the controlling VIS guidance. Classification does not authorize restoration, establish acceptance, or override stop-work, coating, crack, integrity, access, chemical, fall-protection, or project-specific requirements.

Full DSS publication: use the catalog download. Web specification:

<https://a7df714357.nxcli.io/learning-center/resource-center/damage-specification-standards/dss-ch-04-03-degreaser-alkaline-cleaner-burn/>