

DSS-Ch.06.03 | Chemical Attack / Etch / Reaction

Anti-Graffiti Coating Ghost (chemically altered)

Chemical/interaction - altered or partially removed sacrificial/permanent barrier; optical veil/patchiness ± shallow micro-texture, boundary lap lines

Diagnosis summary

Anti-graffiti coating ghost is an appearance change on glass resulting from application, partial removal, or chemical alteration of anti-graffiti barrier products (sacrificial wax/polymer films or “permanent” polysiloxane/fluoropolymer systems).

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- Commonly SC-0 (film/wetting difference only).
- SC-1 (slight) may appear on aged / cross-linked or chemically attacked zones; SC-2 uncommon.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a revealed test patch (substrate) only; polymer stylus if a factory functional coating may be present. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility impact and MSRT after reveal. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-1 (Benign / non-relief): Optical veil/patchiness or wetting contrast only; SC-0; visible mainly in angle/raking. Indicative relief: 0-10 µm (optical).
- CAT-2 (Light): Persistent halo/patch with SC-1 on aged/altered zones; limited impact at standard view. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Broader patch map / edge-lap network legible at standard distance; SC-1 → SC-2 in most affected areas. Indicative relief: ~40-120 µm.
- CAT-4 (Severe): Rare for anti-graffiti alone; where pronounced matte fields or widespread micro-texture exist, consider mixed chemistry (alkali/oxidizer stacks) and re-evaluate under applicable DSS.

Distinguishing criteria

- vs.
- vs. Silane/siloxane migration (Ch.06.01): Migration halos align to masonry treatment geometry/weep paths; anti-graffiti ghosts align to glass-only application/removal and graffiti events.
- vs. Residue films (R-family): General films lack distinct application geometry and wetting discontinuities.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; include raking macros of edge-lap lines, patch interiors, and any holiday regions; add context frames (tag remnants,).
- Wetting behavior documentation (supplemental). Light mist test straddling a boundary; photograph immediate beading/sheeting contrast. Avoid flooding edges/IGU seals.
- MSRT result: One light, non-marring pass on a clean test patch; record SC-class (SC-0/SC-1/SC-2). Polymer stylus if a factory functional coating may be present.

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-06-03-anti-graffiti-coating-ghost-chemically-altered/>