

DSS-R.02.01 | Residue / Film / Adhesion

Paint Overspray Film

Residue/film - aerosolized paint/primer droplets; speckled film to misted veil; typically SC-0, SC-1 if binder cross-linking + soil

Diagnosis summary

Paint overspray film is an appearance change on glass from aerosolized paint/primer (airless/spray-can/HVLP) depositing as micro-droplets that coalesce into a speckled film or misted veil. It ranges from discrete dots to a uniform haze and may exhibit tide lines where masking failed or wind drifted plume edges. Classification is appearance-only per VIS (method-agnostic).

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- Typically SC-0 (dot/binder film sits on top; non-etch).
- SC-1 can appear in aged/cross-linked overspray with soil embed or where binders partially fused in heat/sun. SC-2 is rare.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch; use polymer stylus if a functional coating is suspected. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility at acceptance geometry and MSRT after a controlled reveal test. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-1 (Benign / non-relief): Light dot field/veil; SC-0; mainly angle/raking visible; minimal at standard view. Indicative relief: 0-10 µm (optical film).
- CAT-2 (Light): Persistent denser veil with SC-1 at test patch (aged/cross-linked binder + soil); limited standard-view impact. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): High-density overspray/mist legible at standard distance; SC-1 → SC-2 in worst patches (rare). Indicative relief: ~40-120 µm (film stack).
- Reclassify when: If underlying micro-texture or etch remains after true film removal → evaluate under Ch.04 (chemical) families as indicated.

Distinguishing criteria

- vs. Drywall/plaster film (R.02.02): Drywall leaves chalky particulate with powder transfer; paint overspray shows coalesced droplets and binder gloss.
- vs. Stucco/lime residue (R.02.03): Stucco/lime veils alkaline, often with grain, rings/runs and may progress to etch; overspray is organic binder with speck pattern.
- vs. Mineral staining (Ch.03.02): Mineral films follow water arcs/runs; overspray reflects spray plume geometry and masking lines.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros of droplet field and plume edges; context frames of paint operations or masking.
- MSRT result (substrate): After a small reveal test patch, perform one light, non-marring pass; record SC-class (SC-0/SC-1/SC-2).
- 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-r-02-01-paint-overspray-film/>