

DSS-R.05.01 | Residue / Film / Adhesion

EPDM Gasket Black Rub

Residue/transfer - elastomer contact from glazing gaskets/sweeps; grey-black smudge bands, corner arcs, wipe-smear trails; typically SC-0, localized SC-1 where abraded with dust/cloth

Diagnosis summary

EPDM gasket black rub is an appearance change on glass caused by contact transfer of ethylene-propylene-diene (EPDM) glazing gaskets, weatherstrips, door sweeps, or setting blocks. It presents as grey-black smudge bands, corner arcs mirroring gasket geometry, or wipe-smear trails where attempts were made to clean. Transfer may include carbon black, antiozonants, and surface waxes from the elastomer.

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- Typically SC-0 (soft transfer on top of glass).
- SC-1 may appear where dust-laden cloths or dry abrasion created very shallow micro-texture in the smudge path; SC-2 suggests misclassification (check for mechanical abrasion M-family).
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch (substrate), not over heavy soot-like deposits. Use polymer stylus if a functional coating is suspected on the worked face. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility at acceptance geometry and MSRT after a controlled reveal on a small area. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-1 (Benign / non-relief): Light smudge band; SC-0; mainly angle/raking visible. Indicative relief: 0-10 µm (optical film).
- CAT-2 (Light): Persistent dark band with localized SC-1 from prior dry wiping/soil; limited standard-view impact. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Wide, high-contrast bands or multiple contact paths legible at standard distance, with scattered SC-1 where soil compacted. Indicative relief: ~40-120 µm.
- Reclassify when: After true residue lift, if linear scoring or micro-abrasion swirls remain → evaluate under M.01 (linear scoring) or M.02 (abrasion fields).

Distinguishing criteria

- vs. PVC plasticizer smear (R.05.02): PVC smears skew brown/amber with oily gloss and wetting anomalies; EPDM rub is grey/black, matte-smear and tracks elastomer contact lines.
- vs. Neoprene roller transfer (R.05.03): Neoprene often dotted/patchy with roller pitch; EPDM rub is continuous linear at gasket lines.
- vs. Silicone/PIB smears (R.01.xx): Sealant smears are oily/tacky near joints with corduroy/stringers; EPDM rub is dry-smudge exactly at gasket bearing zones.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros of smear edge, contact line, corner arcs; context frames of gaskets/sweeps contacting the lite.
- 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-05-01-epdm-gasket-black-rub/>