

Aluminum Cleaners and Brighteners

A Two Stage Approach for Shining Aluminum Tankers

Acid brightening of aluminum trailers is a technology that has been around for years. The basic concept involves removing scale, corrosion deposits and oxidation, as well as minimizing localized pitting corrosion. These commonplace issues have plagued aluminum and stainless steel surfaces since the dawn of their existence. Over time these surfaces start looking darker, grittier, less shiny, and unimpressive.

Ostrem Chemical recommends a Two Stage Approach for aluminum brightening:

Stage 1 – heavy duty cleaning of highly oxidized trailers

Stage 2 – routine maintenance of lightly oxidized trailers

What products should be used and when? Before beginning aluminum cleaning, it is important to start with a clean and grease-free surface. First clean the trailer with a mildly alkaline pressure wash detergent to remove all soils.

STAGE 1

Ostrem Chemical sells two highly concentrated, industrial aluminum brighteners for restoring neglected, highly oxidized aluminum: **A266 A-50 Aluminum Brightener & A265 Aluminum Brightener Extreme**.

Both of these products are excellent cleaners and brighteners for aluminum trailers and other exterior unpainted aluminum surfaces. They are a cost effective method for removing all scale, corrosion deposits, pitting, and oxidation. These products are concentrates that can be diluted with up to 20 parts of water and applied with a foaming system for maximum coverage and efficacy. Because of their strong mineral acid composition, these products will remove a very thin layer of the aluminum itself. This may initially result in a “whitened” look, as the fresh aluminum forms a new protective aluminum oxide layer as it reacts with the air. The ultra-shiny original look can easily be restored by polishing the aluminum or simply allowing nature to take its course. Over time (roughly 5-7 days), the shininess will return on its own.

A-50 Aluminum Brightener is Ostrem’s original, highest selling, most cost effective option.

Aluminum Brightener Extreme is Ostrem’s premium aluminum restoration brightener.

CAUTION: Both of these acid blends contain strong mineral acids, including the highly reactive hydrofluoric acid. Therefore they are extremely corrosive to skin and highly toxic via inhalation of vapour or mist. Extra precautions should be taken to wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) and respiratory protection. All workers handling this hazardous product should be properly trained to use PPE, familiar with the Safety Data Sheet and handling precautions. ANY contact with the skin or lungs should be taken seriously and medical attention should be sought immediately.



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PRODUCT PRECAUTIONS: Do not get these products on glass, mirrors or chrome, as they will permanently etch these materials. Clean small sections at a time and do not allow the product to dry.

STAGE 2

For routine cleaning and brightening of trailers, Ostrem Chemical recommends **A271 Non-Etching Aluminum Brightener**.

This product does *NOT* contain hydrofluoric acid – making it a much safer alternative. It is still a strong mineral acid blend, however, and proper PPE and safety precautions should be considered. As its name implies, Non-Etching Aluminum Brightener will restore and retain polished aluminum, stainless steel and hard chrome surfaces, without etching glass, mirrors or chrome. It is a ready-to-use product, ideally applied using foaming equipment. Best of all, it is Ostrem Chemical's least expensive aluminum brightener!

Regular maintenance with Non-Etching Aluminum Brightener will largely preclude the need for using the stronger hydrofluoric acid-based aluminum brighteners. If the aluminum eventually becomes so oxidized that Non-Etching Aluminum Brightener is insufficient, return to STAGE 1 products.



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