

Stain Removal On Aluminum Poles

Materials

- Household lye (available at most hardware and/or home goods stores), also known as drain cleaner or sodium hydroxide
- Clean tap water
- Disposable water container
- Disposable stir stick

Caution follow all warnings on product label

Instructions

1. Mix 2 teaspoons lye into 1 cup of water.
2. Pour solution over stained area and let sit for several minutes.
3. Rinse thoroughly with clean tap water.
4. Check to make sure stains are adequately removed. If necessary, repeat steps 1-3.
5. When stains are gone, apply a vinegar wash to neutralize the lye. If you do not do this, the lye will continue to etch away the aluminum, leaving a white, chalky appearance.
6. Rinse off with clean tap water again after vinegar wash.
7. Dispose of any containers and mixing sticks that contacted the lye solution to avoid accidental consumption.

Warnings

- Wear rubber gloves and goggles when applying solution. Lye can severely dry out skin, or even burn it, and lye will burn your eyes if it contacts them.
- Never mix lye with other cleaners!
- If lye comes in contact with skin, wash with vinegar and rinse thoroughly with cold water.
- If it gets in eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes and seek medical attention.