

TECH TALK

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Repainting Grilles, Registers and Diffusers

by Dave Fetters

Since we are often asked how to repaint our registers, the answer sounded like a good *Tech Talk* subject!

Every part, whether it is made from steel, aluminum, or plastic, whether painted or anodized, can be repainted. A common starting point for any product is to ensure a clean surface. Paint will not stick to a dusty or greasy surface. Just wipe off a dusty surface with a clean, dry cloth. If grease or a similar contaminate is present, clean with a mild dish detergent or diluted alcohol to cut the grease, then dry thoroughly.

DO NOT use aggressive chemical cleaners like lacquer thinner, MEK (methyl ethyl ketone), acetone, nail polish remover, PVC cleaner, bleach and the like, because they will eat into the existing paint or, on plastic, attack the surface.

Lightly rubbing the hard, glossy finish of our product with fine steel wool or a Scotch-Brite® pad allows the new paint to adhere better.

Priming is not required. A couple of light color coats are preferred over one heavy coat. Spraying will provide better coverage than brushing. Lacquer, latex, and urethane-, acrylic- or PVC-based paints all work, even on the REZZIN™ products. Krylon® Fusion and H₂O™ work well.

If spray lacquer will be used, be sure to shake the can well; otherwise, the thinners and paint in the can may not mix, and the result could damage the surface to be painted.