

How to clean your TKS® panels

Ah, spring! The season filled with beautiful blue skies and puffy white clouds, light breezes, warm rays of sunshine...and bugs. Lots and lots of bugs.

CAV Ice Protection is here to help you with a step-by-step guide on how to clean bugs and dust from your titanium TKS® panels. We asked our Repair Station Manager, Brian Sader, to give some insight into the topic of cleaning TKS panels, and here are a few spoilers:

1. TKS panels are easy to clean.
2. TKS panel pores won't be blocked by standard dust and bug guts.
3. Save your money, you don't need to buy special cleaning solutions.
4. It's titanium, so you don't need to worry about any kind of preserving pre-treatment.

Please continue reading to learn all the details.

IMPORTANT: The cleaning methods and materials listed in the TKS supplement of your aircraft's pilot's operating handbook should always be followed and supercede methods described anywhere else. Any questions regarding those methods and materials should be directed to the supplement's publishing authority.

While flying in warm weather, your TKS panels will end up being plastered with dead bugs and dirt from normal flying activities. Here's how to correctly clean them without damage.

Start with warm water, mild soap and a lint free cloth. When the job requires more than a sponge, grab a green scouring pad, the same type of pad available at any store that sells dishwashing sponges. Always clean the panels with a chordwise motion, never side to side.

For the best way to clean extremely dirty panels, turn the system on and, while the fluid is coming out of the panel, lightly scrub with the green scouring pad following the grain that is on the panel. The pad will pull the bug/dirt debris from the holes in the panel and the fluid will help push them out. Once the panels are clean, rinse them off and you are done.



Clean the panels with a chordwise (up and down) motion. Never side to side.

Read next page for cleaning materials and methods to avoid.



TKS® panels have a critical layer of PVC inside which can be permanently damaged from the use of some chemicals. Only the following solvents are permitted for use on porous panels.

Preferred cleaning methods

Water with soap/detergent

Approved TKS Ice Protection System fluid

Other cleaning methods

Aviation gasoline

Isopropyl alcohol

Ethyl alcohol

Industrial methylated spirit

Avoid using the following common cleaning materials and methods on your TKS panels.

Materials to avoid

MEK or other harsh, plastic damaging solvents

Cleaners containing wax

Lubricating solvents

Any solvent or detergent that is not fully approved

Methods to avoid

Machine buffing

Sanding

Grinding

Heavy scouring with abrasive materials



Never use materials not listed in your TKS® POH Supplement.