

N71355 Cleaning

The Dal-Tex By-Laws require the airplane to be cleaned after each owner uses the aircraft. As such we stock plenty of cleaning supplies in the hangar to cover the various cleaning needs. The following is on hand:

- Sonterra Wipes - these are for cleaning plexiglass, but can be used to wipe anything. We have plenty of these.
- Blue Shop Towels - can be used to wipe down anything but plexiglass.
- Microfiber Towels - NOT to be used for general cleaning. These are for polishing or cleaning plexiglass.
- Terry Cloth Towels - for general clean-up, but NOT for plexiglass
- Water - usually works fine for getting bugs off the leading edges, etc
- Lemon Pledge - works well for cleaning bugs, plus leaves a little wax behind, but attracts dust. Can be used on plexiglass
- CarbonX 5-1 mix - used for light grime like oily hand prints, the black streaks from joints/rivets/hinges
- CarbonX 2-1 mix - used for heavy grime such as nose wheel fairing or oily belly
- Wash n Wax All - not a very good cleaner but does leave a good shine after surface has been wiped down with something else

We keep the microfiber towels separate from the others to keep them uncontaminated from oil/grit, etc that might scratch the windows.

Water jugs are kept filled to top off the various spray bottles.

Here's my general post-flight routine: I usually spray a wing/strut leading edge with water, then wipe down with a terry towel. Repeat on front/bottom of cowling, other wing, wheel fairings, and tail feathers. I'll occasionally use lemon pledge if the bug carnage is heavy or the water didn't get it all. I'll use a little 5-1 CarbonX on any streaking or dirty spots.

I usually use the plexiglass cleaner that's kept with the clean microfibers and Sonterra wipes to clean the glass. Another acceptable method is to use 5-1 CarbonX and the palm of your hand with no jewelry, followed by a good water rinse. Always wipe in the direction of the airflow, NEVER circular motions.

I occasionally get the plane to the wash rack for a full cleaning. I also will wipe wings down to the first rivet line (and other areas) with 5-1 CarbonX, then follow-up with Wash n Wax All to shine it up. I also try to get out and clay bar the leading edges and the put a good coat of Rejex or other wax on.