

# Exhibit Cleaning

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South Carolina  
Aquarium

# South Carolina Aquarium Dive Operations

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It is the mission of the South Carolina Aquarium (SCA) Dive Team to provide excellence in animal care and husbandry, to actively support both the educational and conservation endeavors of the SCA, and to provide a memorable, positive guest experience to all those who visit our facility.

# Training Schedule

- Power Point Presentation
- Quiz
- 2 Cleaning Dives
  - > **Supervised by Team Leader or Designee**

# General Considerations

- Diver Profile – Minimize bouncing depths repetitively as you clean
  - > Generally divers start cleaning at a deeper depth and move shallow to conserve air better
  - > Be methodical in your dive profile; not spontaneous, looking for algae spots
- Animal Swim Patterns take priority over cleaning
- Anything that goes into the exhibit must come out
- Watch air consumption and dive time
- Look up and check on your dive buddies periodically
- Report any exhibit issues to DPIC immediately
- *Do not fabricate, modify, or create your own cleaning tools*

# Cleaning Tasks

- Windows
- Rockwork
- Vacuum
- Walls
- Floors

# Cleaning Tools – Windows *(public side)*

**Green Huck Towel**



**Blue/Yellow Suction Cup**



# Windows – Public (dry side)

- Cleaned every morning
- Use green huck towel and Brillianize spray
  - > *other towels and cleaning agents will opaque acrylic overtime*
- Use light pressure & wipe away the smudges
- Make note of areas inside exhibit that should be targeted for 1<sup>st</sup> cleaning dive.





# Cleaning Tools – Windows *(exhibit side)*

**White Doodlebug**



**Blue/Yellow Suction Cup**

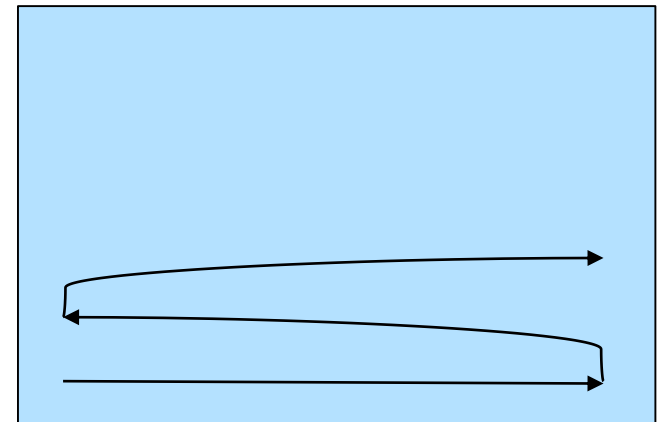


# Windows – Exhibit (wet side)

- Use White Doodlebug pad only!
  - > Any other device will scratch or opaque acrylic
- Use blue/yellow suction cups for leverage
  - > Wipe a small clean area prior to sticking the suction cup
  - > *Algae trapped under suction cup could house debris and scratch*
- Check pad often for debris
  - > fish scales, calcified waste, algae stains housing debris etc
- Be careful not to hit window with SPG, main cylinder, or RASS
  - > Back kick or lean back & swim away from window before turning

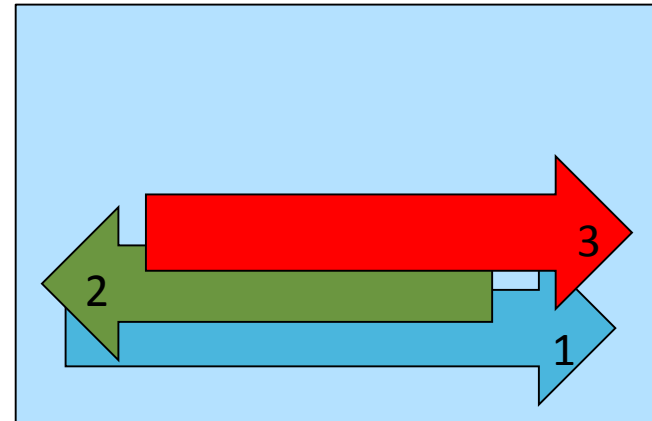
## Wipe Pattern

*Side-side, then shift depth up*



# Windows – Exhibit (wet side *cont.*)

- Windows need to be wiped in it's entirety
  - > Even if it looks clean, a thin slime and algae layer is building
- Overlap your wipe area as you move to a higher depth
- Use light pressure overall
  - > Heavy pressure can be used for scratches filled with algae



# Cleaning Tools – Rockwork

## Brushes



# Rockwork

- Use only brushes approved by DSO
  - > Brushes are kept on dive platform shelf
- Clips are provided on every BCD
- Clip brushes to BCD when not being used
- Avoid using coral pieces as handholds, as they can snap off overtime
- Avoid bouncing depth repetitively when scrubbing rockwork
  - > Work laterally at a constant depth, then slowly move to another higher depth as you consume air

# Cleaning Tools – Vacuuming

**Hose**



**Plates**



# Vacuuming

1. Deploy Vacuum Hose into GOT; at a maximum 5 minutes prior to entry
2. Swim 2x plates from Cave to Grate
3. Install Big plate then Small plate on Grate
4. Pull Vac hose underwater, holding both ends in either hand
5. Connect weighted end of Vac hose to Big plate
6. Vacuum exhibit bottom to top
7. Disconnect Vac hose from Big Plate
8. Slide Small plate then Big plate off Grate
9. Return 2x Plates to Cave
10. End Dive & Clip-off Vac Hose for retrieval

# Vacuumping(*cont.*)

- Always keep a hand on the Vac hose end once connected
  - > Do not allow end to breach the surface, this sends air into the GOT pumps and can starve them
- Vacuuming is to be done only during the first morning dive
  - > For aesthetics and pump flow
- Watch your profile and Vacuum in a circular ascending pattern
  - > You can start at the Shallow Ledge and Vac in a descending pattern however most divers will run short of air this way



# Cleaning Tools – Floors/Walls

**Blue Scrub Pad**



**Clamping Suction Cup**



# Floors/Walls

*Disclaimer: The manufacturer 3M calls the pad color Blue;  
yes....we know they look green*

- Blue Pads & Clamping Suction Cups
  - > *Clamping suction cup can scratch and smudge acrylic window*
- Blue pads stored above Hallway Shelf
  - > *Blue pads WILL scratch & opaque acrylic windows*
  - > *Do not mix up the storage areas for pads*
- Similar to wiping windows, but less delicacy is needed
  - > Use Clamping Suction Cup for leverage
  - > Wipe algae off with pad
  - > Rockwork brushes may be used on Walls & Floors too

