Omegasonics

Ultrasonic Cleaning Equipment

Operation & Instruction Manual

Model Elite 8000 Ultrasonic Blind Cleaner

1 Phase 208–230 VAC, 30 Amp

Read all instructions thoroughly before operating this equipment



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....

Warnings .....

Set-Up .....

Digital Temperature & Timer .....

Cleaning Procedures .....

Specific Blind & Shade Cleaning Procedures .....

Equipment Maintenance .....

Troubleshooting .....

Cleaning Agents & Water Quality .....

Limited Warranty / Service Information .....

INTRODUCTION

About the Ultrasonic Cleaning Process

Congratulations on your Omegasonics Elite 8000 Ultrasonic Blind Cleaner. This manual addresses blind and shade cleaning only. Ultrasonic energy creates microscopic cavitation bubbles in a cleaning solution. Their collapse helps dislodge soils from slats, cords, and other accessible surfaces. Effective results depend on correct solution, temperature, cleaning time, and the condition of the blind.

Inspect every blind before cleaning. Ultrasonic cleaning cannot restore faded paint, sun-damaged coatings, corroded metal, or deteriorated fabric. Some finishes and adhesives can be damaged by immersion or ultrasonic action.

WARNINGS

- Requires a properly grounded single-phase 208–230 VAC, 30 Amp electrical supply, as specified in the starting Elite 8000 document. Have a qualified electrician verify the machine nameplate and installation requirements.
- Never energize ultrasound, heat, or filtration with insufficient liquid in the appropriate tank or weir. Maintain the machine's specified operating water level.
- Do not place hands into an energized ultrasonic bath. Use suitable protective gloves and safe lifting practices for wet blinds.
- Never use flammable solvents, strong acids, or chemicals incompatible with stainless steel. Follow detergent labels and safety data sheets.
- Disconnect electrical power and allow liquid to cool before servicing, draining, or moving the unit. Electrical repairs are for qualified technicians only.
- Do not rest blind rails or other objects directly on the tank's ultrasonic radiating surface. Use the installed support rack.
- Never assume a blind is washable: check coating, material, adhesives, labels, and prior damage. Test an inconspicuous area first.
- Do not immerse electrical motorized headrails, controls, or other energized components.

SET-UP

General

1. Position the unit on a level, stable floor and secure its casters, where equipped.
2. Confirm that wash and rinse drains are closed. Inspect hoses, filters, and connections for leaks.
3. Fill the wash tank and weir to the specified working levels; do not operate below the low-water sensor or spray-bar level. Fill the rinse tank with clean water.
4. Add a blind-cleaning detergent approved for this equipment, using the current product label for the actual tank volume.
5. Connect the machine to the verified electrical supply and switch on POWER.
6. If the installed unit has a heater, set a conservative temperature appropriate for the blind material. For conventional mini blinds, the older blind-cleaning reference recommends approximately 100–110°F and cautions against 115°F or hotter.

7. Run the ultrasonics for approximately 15 minutes to degas freshly prepared solution before the first load.
8. Check the control panel, timer, filtration, and water level before processing blinds.

FILLING THE WASH AND RINSE TANKS

Before filling, place the Elite 8000 on a level surface and lock the casters. Verify that both drain valves are fully closed (valve handles perpendicular to the drain outlet).



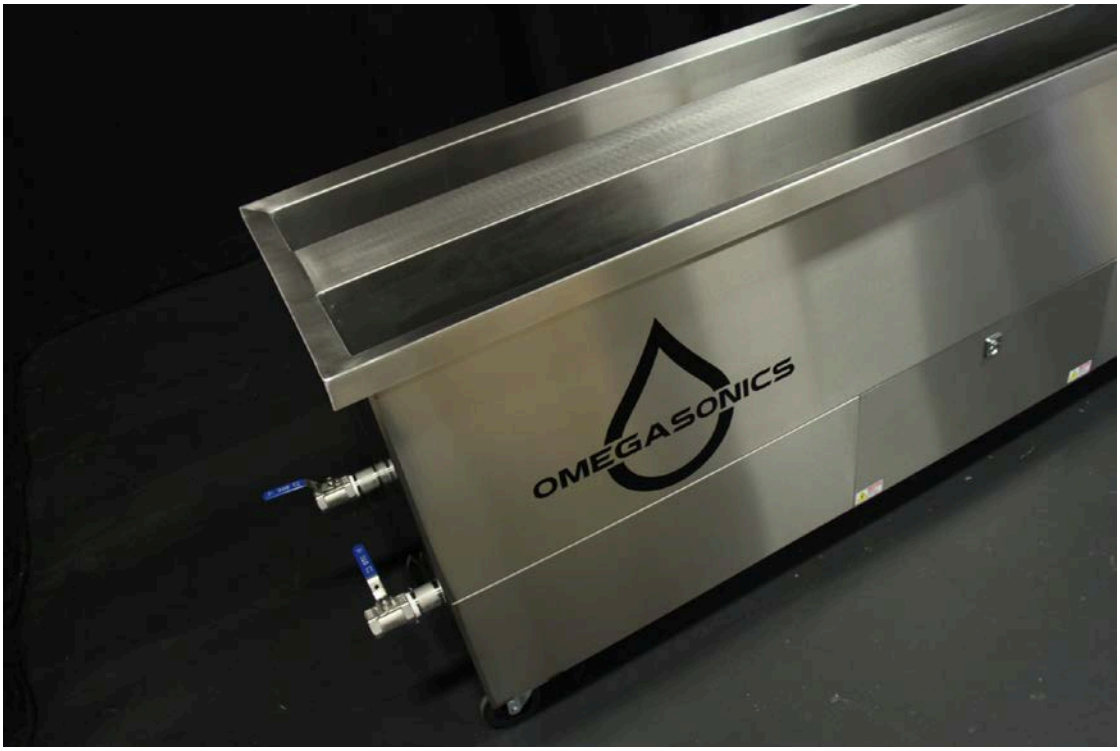
Wash tank and rinse channel — fill each section to its proper working level.

Fill the main ultrasonic wash bath with clean water to the operating level specified for the installed machine. If equipped with a weir/overflow and filtration system, fill the weir sufficiently before starting the pump. Fill the separate rinse channel with clean water. Add only the correct amount of approved blind-cleaning detergent to the wash bath, based on the actual filled volume and the detergent label.

Do not operate heat, ultrasound, or the filtration pump with insufficient water. Check the tank and drain connections for leaks before switching on POWER. Soft water is preferred to minimize mineral spotting on blinds.

DRAINING THE WASH AND RINSE TANKS

Turn OFF POWER, disconnect/isolate the electrical supply, and allow the water to cool before draining. Place a suitable hose or collection container at the appropriate outlet. The photograph below shows the two separate drain valves on the end of the unit.



Upper valve: rinse channel drain. Lower valve: main ultrasonic wash bath drain.

Open the desired valve slowly (handle parallel to the outlet when open). Drain the wash bath and rinse channel separately as needed. Keep hands clear of hot water, control the discharge, and dispose of wastewater in accordance with local requirements. After draining, close both valves completely before refilling.

Water Quality

Soft water is preferred. Hard-water minerals can reduce detergent performance and leave spots on dark slats. Use soft or appropriately treated water and fresh rinse water when spotting becomes an issue.

DIGITAL TEMPERATURE & TIMER

Temperature Control



Elite 8000 control panel — timer, temperature controller, reset, heat, power, sonics and low-water indicator.

Knowing Your Temperature Controller

- PV: This upper display indicates the actual Process Value (or current temperature) of the bath and cannot be changed manually.
- SV: The lower display indicates the Set Value or desired bath temperature. This Set Value is adjustable.
- ALM 1: If this light is on, it means that the machine is currently heating. It will shut off once the desired temperature has been reached.
- OUT: If this light is on, it means that the bath temperature is out of the preset range of 50°F–160°F. There is a 5°F hysteresis, which means that the heating mechanism (and the OUT light) will go on/off based on a 5°F variance. This serves as a buffer to protect the life of the motor contactor.
- AT, ALM 2: Omegasonics use only.
- Return Key: Used to confirm and save a changed temperature Set Value.

Operation

- The temperature controller is factory set at 150°F.
- To change the Set Value, lightly press the up arrow key to increase or lightly press the down arrow key to decrease the value. Pressing and holding down either arrow key will change the displayed value rapidly.
- Upon changing the Set Value, the lower display will flicker, indicating the new value is not set. To make this value permanent, press the RETURN Key.
- Experience shows that the optimum ultrasonic cleaning temperature for most general applications is 120°F–160°F. NOTE: This general equipment guidance is not the recommended range for all blinds. Follow the blind-specific temperature precautions elsewhere in this manual; some blinds require approximately 100°F–110°F or less.
- When ready to activate the heat, turn the selector switch marked HEAT to the ON position.

- The heat circuit and the ultrasound can be operated simultaneously.

If increased or decreased security is desired, please contact technical support at Omegasonics to receive instructions.

Digital Timer

Operation

- The 4-digit number on the upper display is the amount of time that the machine has been in actual operation. It will count up to the preset value.
- The illuminated 4-digit number on the lower display is the preset value.
- Pressing the RESET button will deactivate the timer and reset it to 0. Turning the switch to RESET will also deactivate the timer.
- Pressing the LOCK button will prevent you from changing the preset time value. LOCK will display in the lower orange display.
- The ultrasound is factory set to 15:00 minutes.
- To adjust the preset value, press the blue keys. Press the up arrow key to increase, or down arrow key to decrease.
- Left most blue key corresponds to 10 minute increments.
- Second blue key from the left corresponds to 1 minute increments.
- Third blue key from the left corresponds to 10 second increments.
- Right most blue key corresponds to 1 second increments.
- The time is activated by turning the selector switch marked SONICS to the ON position. The button will return to center. The “OP” light will illuminate on the lower, left side orange display. A red light will illuminate and blink on the upper, left side red display while the timer is operational.

Blind-cleaning caution: The 15-minute factory timer setting is not an appropriate default cleaning duration for blinds. Inspect blinds within 60 seconds; the historical blind-cleaning reference recommends short 30–90 second cycles and cautions against more than two minutes total. Use shorter times for delicate materials.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

Pre-Cleaning Inspection

9. Identify the blind or shade material, manufacturer instructions, finish, and any motorized components.
10. Extend the blind on an inspection rack and check for chipped or peeling paint, oxidation, broken slats, stains, damaged cords, brittle plastics, and loose adhesives.
11. Document existing damage and advise the customer before cleaning a questionable blind. Do not process any blind likely to be damaged by water or ultrasonics.
12. Remove loose debris and heavy surface soil when appropriate. Prepare a clean rinse tank and drying rack.

General Machine Operation

13. Bring the wash bath to the appropriate temperature and degas fresh solution.
14. Collapse the blind by bringing the bottom rail toward the headrail, or position it as appropriate for the specific blind type.

15. Lower it gently into the wash bath without striking the bottom or transducer surfaces.
16. Activate ultrasonics for a short cycle. Inspect within 60 seconds and repeat only if safe and necessary.
17. Lift slowly at an angle to drain excess solution back into the wash tank.
18. Rinse thoroughly to remove detergent residue.
19. Hang at an angle on a drying rack, open and separate slats, and allow complete drying before closing or packaging.

SPECIFIC BLIND & SHADE CLEANING PROCEDURES

Aluminum and Vinyl Mini Blinds

- Inspect paint, coating, cord ladders, and oxidation before immersion.
- For conventional blinds, begin with a short 30–60 second cycle; inspect and repeat cautiously as needed.
- Lift at an angle to prevent bending slats under the weight of trapped water.
- Rinse, open slats for airflow, and hang at an angle until fully dry.

Vertical Blinds — Vinyl and Fabric

- Keep the vanes from one window together and inspect the material for shrinkage, bleeding dyes, and damaged finishes.
- Pretest fabric vanes before ultrasonic immersion. Avoid wool, cotton, rayon acetate, or any fabric that is not proven safe for wet cleaning.
- Clean in manageable groups without crushing or tightly bunching vanes. Rinse thoroughly and hang individually to prevent creasing and promote drying.

Pleated and Cellular / Duette Shades

- Check fabric, adhesives, rail finishes, and metallic backing. Do not ultrasonically clean shades with vulnerable metallic backing.
- Only process shades proven safe for immersion; test first and use a short cycle.
- Avoid over-soaking and fully rinse pleats or cells. Hang with airflow until thoroughly dry.

Silhouette and Similar Sheer Shades

- Only clean after confirming material and construction are suitable for immersion.
- Keep the headrail out of water. Support the shade to avoid stressing delicate fabric or slats.
- Use a brief wash, rinse carefully, and hang by the headrail at an angle to dry.

Wood, Woven Wood, Metallic Film and Specialty Shades

- Do not routinely ultrasonically clean natural wood blinds: unfinished edges and cord holes may absorb water, swell, or warp. Hand cleaning is preferred.
- Do not ultrasonically clean painted woven woods or metallic-film/Mylar-coated blinds; coatings may peel or dissolve.
- Specialty shades and adhesive-backed materials require manufacturer approval and a successful test before immersion.

RINSING, DRYING & FINAL INSPECTION

20. Use clean rinse water and gently move the blind to remove remaining detergent.
21. Hang blinds with one end lower than the other to encourage drainage. Open and separate slats or vanes.
22. Do not close, wrap, or place damp blinds in plastic sleeves. Avoid leaving freshly cleaned closed blinds in a hot vehicle or direct sun.
23. Inspect after drying for spots, residue, finish damage, cord operation, and overall appearance. Document any preexisting defects.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Daily / Routine

- Remove accumulated debris from the wash tank and weir.
- Check water levels, drains, pump connections, and leaks before each shift.
- Clean or replace filters as needed, with equipment switched off and isolated from power.
- Drain and replace solution when soil loading or cleaning performance requires it.
- Keep control panels and electrical components dry; never spray them directly.

Draining Tank

Turn off POWER and isolate the electrical supply. Allow the bath to cool, connect a suitable drain hose or container, and open the appropriate drain valve slowly. Dispose of wastewater in accordance with local requirements. Close drains before refilling.

TROUBLESHOOTING

No power

Verify supply, disconnect, breaker, and main POWER control; refer electrical faults to a qualified technician.

No ultrasound

Verify adequate water level, timer setting, SONICS control, and any generator status indication. Do not open electrical enclosures.

Poor cleaning

Check bath degassing, temperature, detergent concentration, hard water, overloading, and generator operation.

Spotting after drying

Refresh rinse water, check water hardness and detergent residue, and improve drainage and airflow.

Finish peeling or cloudy water

Stop immediately, remove the blind, document its condition, and contact the customer before proceeding.

CLEANING AGENTS & WATER QUALITY

The legacy blind-cleaning reference describes concentrated powder soap and Sheeteze rinse drying agent. Those historical directions are not a substitute for the current product label or a confirmed Elite 8000 working volume. Premix concentrates thoroughly in water before adding them to the appropriate tank. Do not combine bleach or other incompatible chemicals with the bath. Soft water is recommended for consistent cleaning and reduced spotting.

LIMITED WARRANTY

Warranty coverage for the Elite 8000 Blind Cleaner is governed by the applicable Omegasonics limited warranty and the terms of the accepted purchase agreement. Refer to the current written warranty for coverage, exclusions, and claim procedures.

This warranty does not include damage or product failure, which results from cavitation erosion, misuse, abuse or transportation damage. This warranty is limited to the original purchaser and is not transferable. Total liability for any reason whatsoever, shall not in any case exceed the cost of repair or replacement of the defective part. In no case shall Omegasonics be responsible for any incidental or consequential damages.

Omegasonics | 330 E. Easy Street, Suite A, Simi Valley, CA 93065 | (805) 583-0875 | www.omegasonics.com

BLIND CLEANING REFERENCE & FIELD PROCEDURES

Supplemental material adapted from the supplied Omegasonics Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models. This section supplements, but does not replace, the Elite 8000-specific setup, electrical, filling, draining and operating instructions in the preceding pages.

IMPORTANT: The reference manual covers older equipment and historical cleaning chemistry. References to 120-volt power, older control panels, specific chemical quantities, suppliers and prices are not Elite 8000 specifications. Verify the machine nameplate, installed controls, current detergent instructions and blind manufacturer guidance before use.

Use the procedures below as blind-material reference information. When the material is fragile or the manufacturer prohibits immersion, do not process it ultrasonically.

REFERENCE: HOW TO CLEAN A MINI BLIND

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 52. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

This machine is quite powerful. Don't be fooled by the gentle action of the ultrasound. 1. Do not use hot water (115° or more). You could oxidize the blind or remove paint. We have found that a temperature of 100-110° is comfortable to work with and still cleans blinds. Cold water will not clean the blinds. 2. Fill ultrasonic tank 5 to 6 inches above rack for normal, everyday cleaning. Set temperature gauge between 3 and 4.

Fill rinse tank 10-12 inches above rack with cold water. 3. Add 8 ounces of powdered cleaning agent to a gallon of HOT water. Stir well and add to the ultrasonic tank. Mix 2 ounces of drying agent with hot water. Add to the rinse tank. Rinse water does not have to be warm. We have been getting 40 blinds or more from a tank of solution.

The water will get dirty, but still does a fine job. (If your water is hard, it will be necessary to use soft water). Run ultrasonics for 15 minutes to de-gas in preparation for cleaning. 4. Until you become familiar with the equipment, do not leave a blind in the tank longer than 60 seconds before checking it for cleanliness. 30-90 seconds is ample time for an average blind to clean.

Do not leave the blinds in the machine after the timer had shut off. Cleaning action may still be taking place on some blinds and could cause damage. 5. Hang up the blinds in inspection area and release cord lock. Extend the blinds to the full down position. 6. Inspect the blind for chips, paint peeling, excessive grease and dirt build-up. 7. If the blind had chips or peeling, contact customer service and advise.

It is possible to cause additional paint removal. The most important step in the cleaning process is knowing what to expect before you clean the blinds. There is no substitute for a thorough inspection. If you feel that the cleaning process may damage the blind, call your customer and explain the circumstances. YOU will save many complaints and unnecessary expense. (See "Cleaning Tips" and important "Don't Clean"). 8.

Remove the blind from the inspection rack by bringing the bottom rail to the top rail and holding the rails together. In that position, carry the blind to the cleaning tank. Lower it gently into the ultrasound solution and set the timer for one minute or turn on with foot pedal. Inspect the blind. If you feel it needs more cleaning time, use it, but never go over a minute at a time.

We do not advise cleaning for more than two minutes. Ultrasound is very powerful, so be careful. It is working, so easy does it!! Do not leave blinds in the ultrasonic tank for longer than 30 seconds after they have been cleaned. 9. After cleaning the blind, place it in the rinse tank until ready to hand dry. 10. Hang the blinds to dry on a drying rack or something similar. A.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: A. IF A BLIND IS NOT TOTALLY DRY, DO NOT WRAP IT UP. MOISTURE BETWEEN SLATS COULD CAUSE TH

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 53. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

together. There will be no problem with sticking if the blinds are installed immediately and then lowered into the customer's window. B. Do not put blinds in plastic sleeves after cleaning: Same problem as above. C. Never leave just-cleaned blinds in a hot car or in direct sunlight in closed position for any extended period of time – same problem as above.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 54. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

You can clean all verticals, vinyl, aluminum and fabric, except wool, cotton and rayon acetate fabrics). You may also clean woven woods, pleated shades, duettes, silhouettes and roller shades (always pre- test fabric vanes for shrinking if in doubt). The machine will clean light de-fusers, air-conditioning vents and most plastic products. Go ahead and experiment. You will be both surprised and pleased to see the results.

We have a dealer in Ohio who cleans his golf clubs in the machine. Ultrasound can be used to clean tools, grills over stoves, spoke hub caps and even parking meter clocks. The list and possibilities of ultrasonic cleaning is endless. (See list of items that have been successfully cleaned in our ultrasonic machines.) MORE DON'TS 1. Ultrasound will remove the paint from woven woods with painted surfaces. 2.

Metallic blinds have a Mylar film on the slats, not paint. Ultrasonics will remove this film during cleaning. If the blinds are old, just water will dissolve the Mylar. DO NOT clean with ultrasound. Do by hand. ALWAYS get customer to sign a release before cleaning metallic blinds. 3. It is possible to remove the metallic backing on pleated shades with the ultrasonic process. 4.

DO NOT put blinds in plastic sleeves after cleaning. The moisture from the blinds will cause the slats to stick together. 5. Use extreme care when cleaning wooden blinds in the ultrasound equipment. 6. If a blind is not totally dry, do not wrap it up. Moisture between the slats will cause them to stick together. There will be no problem with sticking when the blinds are installed within 15 or 20 minutes.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: MINI BLINDS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 55. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Cleaning Tips 1. Additional Cleaning Methods A. We have been experimenting with a different method of cleaning. Release cord and lower blind only 6-8”. Lay blind in ultrasonic tank, so that the slats are perpendicular to the rack (accordion style). Run ultrasonic for 1 minute. Check. If still dirty, turn over and run for one more minute. Use the same caution as always when cleaning older blinds.

We tried this method and the old method, and found that this one actually cleans better on most blinds. If you pick up the blinds, check them for chips and scratches or excessive grease at that time. If the customer drops them off, check before cleaning. B. Turn on ultrasound holding bottom, and hold the bottom rail and the top rail together.

Slowly lower mini blinds (in open position) into the ultrasonic tank and then slowly raise it out again. 2. After cleaning blinds, sometimes the cord is still stained next to the plastic tassel. Slide the tassel up, cut the cord a little past the stain and tie a new knot. 3. Isopropyl alcohol works great at removing food spots from a kitchen blind without injuring the paint.

Sometimes a blind will go through the machine twice and still have stubborn spots. Just let them dry, check it and wipe with alcohol to remove stain. 4. Blinds with obvious sun damage or oxidation are very hard to clean. We cannot replace paint bleached out by years of exposure to the sun, no more than a car wash can replace bleached-out paint on a car. 5. Handle mini blinds with caution when removing them from water.

The force of the water can bed the slats. We suggest raising them at an angle so that the water drains back in the tank. This will also save water and prevent contamination of rinse water. THINGS TO LOOK FOR Detergents and Chemicals 1. Be careful of blinds that your customer has cleaned with a harsh detergent, such as cleanser or 409. The paint has probably been softened and dirt embedded into it.

The problem is easily recognized by the appearance of the paint. It will appear muddy and streaked. You can not remove the dirt short of removing the paint. 2. It is important to know where the blinds come from. A dealer picked up the blinds from a photography studio and the instant she put them in the tank, the water turned milky. (She didn’t even turn off the unit). When she removed them, the paint had started to come off.

After further investigation, it was determined that the chemicals from the photo processing in the studio had apparently affected the finish on the blinds. 3. We cleaned a house of blinds and as they were drying, the paint on three of the blinds started to shrink up and peel off. We were totally baffled as to why this happened to only three, since they all had the same sun exposure and were all the same brand and age.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: OXIDIZED BLINDS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 56. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. After blinds have been cleaned, try using straight Windex. Put it on full-strength on a soft cloth and wipe off the slats. You can remove most of the oxidation that way. 2. Extreme oxidation of blinds can only be removed by hand cleaning after the ultrasound has removed the dirt. 3. If water becomes milky when the blind is put in ultrasound, remove immediately.

Sun exposure has destroyed the protective skin of the paint finish and the paint is dissolving. These can be cleaned by hand with caution or notify customer and advise. 4. Let customers know if blinds are obviously sun-damaged and oxidized. Offer to wax the blinds for an additional $2.75 to $3.00. Spray the convex side of the blinds with silicone spray and wipe them with a soft cloth.

The silicone puts a nice sheen on the blinds and the customer is delighted with the results. 5. Blinds that have been in extreme cold for several hours can crack and peel if they are put into the ultrasonic tank before they reach room temperature. Dark Blinds 1. When cleaning brown blinds (they are a problem for all of us), clean them very thoroughly. Use clean rinse water.

The only reason for spotting is dirt and residue (same thing). Some dark brown blinds have been exposed to sun for years and have been oxidized. 2. The sun breaks down the finish on dark colors more quickly than light colors – dark blinds sometimes appear to have a powder residue on the slats after cleaning. This, in actuality, is the paint pigmentation that the ultrasound has pulled to the surface.

A damp cloth will quickly remove the powder. You may also wipe down the blind while still wet after you have cleaned it in the ultrasonic tank. Since you cannot see the residue when the blinds are wet, it is impossible to know if the wiping will be necessary until the blind is dry. The problem is generally found in older blinds. 3. TIPS FOR CLEANING DARK BLINDS A.

Double the powder soap in the ultrasonic tank, plus set the temperature of the water at about 115°. Try running for one minute. If you try this, know your blinds. The blinds could lose paint if they are exposed to excessive sun. B. Add one cup of plain, distilled vinegar to the ultrasonic tank to help eliminate residue. C. Clean dark blinds as described on page 4, section 1-A. Smoke Damaged Blinds 1.

Water spots created by previous improper cleaning and drying are very hard to remove. The calcium deposits left on the blind are usually there to stay. 2. Corrosion from salt water or salt air blinds found in bathrooms will not come off. Paint could possibly come off in areas of corrosion. 3. Some areas of the county have extremely hard water.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: OLD BLINDS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 57. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. Reduce the powder soap to 5/8 – 2/3 of a cup and drop the water temperature to 100°. You can run old blinds for 1 ½ to 1 ¾ minutes without losing paint and alleviate most, if not all, hand work. 2. Never clean metallic blind in ultrasound. (brass, bronze, gold and silver finish). They can be cleaned by hand with solution.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: BLINDS TO WATCH

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 58. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. M & B Blinds: Beware of older micro mini blinds made by M & B. Paint is very thin and poorly applied. The paint could peel along the edge and ends. 2. Bali Blinds: The new style blinds made by Bali use the flat type of cord. The colored cords have a tendency to bleed color onto the slats during drying and cause streaking. Also, these same blinds seemed to be scratched due to the way they open and close.

It’s a good idea to point this out to your customer prior to cleaning. 3. Graber Blinds: Some of the older Graber blinds will lose paint from the top and bottom rail. For many of you just starting out in the blind cleaning business, consider having a disclaimer printed on all your receipts and having the customer sign and date before you leave with or accept the blinds.

Suggested Disclaimer Not responsible for damage caused by prior misuse, abuse, direct exposure to salty air, color change that takes place with the passage of time or oxidation caused by excessive exposure to the sun. Not responsible for previous improper cleaning and/or use of abrasive and harmful solutions.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: CLEANING TIPS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 59. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. Water spots from previous improper cleaning can not be removed. 2. Corrosion from salty water or on blinds found in bathrooms will not come off. Paint could possibly be removed in areas of corrosion. 3. If water becomes milky when the blind is put in the ultrasound, remove immediately. Sun exposure has destroyed the protective skin of the paint finish and the paint is dissolving.

These can be cleaned by hand with caution, or notify the customer and advise. 4. Extreme oxidation of blinds can only be removed by hand cleaning after the ultrasound has removed the dirt. 5. Blinds cleaned with harsh detergents, such as cleaner or 409, may have a muddy or streaked appearance. The paint has been softened and the dirt is actually embedded in the paint. There is no remedy for this condition. 6.

Fabric vertical vanes that are extremely dirty or stained can be soaked in the ultrasonic tank for 3-5 minutes before turning on the ultrasound. Depending on how dirty they are, run them for 2-4 minutes. 7. Plastic minis and vertical vanes can not be harmed by ultrasound. We generally run them for 2-4 minutes, depending on degree of soil. 8. Clean metal vertical vanes the same as metal mini blinds. 9.

Hang the blinds to dry on a drying rack or something similar. 10. Handle the blinds with caution when removing them from the water. The force of the water can bend the slats. We suggest raising them at an angle so that the water drains back into the tank. This saves water and prevents contamination of the rinse tank. 11. Dark blinds present a problem for most of us.

Because the sun breaks down the finish on dark colors more quickly than light colors, dark blinds sometimes appear to have a powder residue on the slats after cleaning. This is actually the paint pigmentation that the ultrasound has pulled to the surface. A damp cloth with quickly remove the powder, or you may wipe down the blind while still west after you have cleaned it in the ultrasonic tank.

Since you cannot see the residue when the blinds are wet, it is impossible to know if the wiping will be necessary until the blind is dry. The problem is generally found on older blinds. 12. Light Lens – diffusers (plastic off-white colors) are cleaned one half at a time. One minute on one side, then flip and run one more minute. How many you will be able to clean at one time depends on the thickness. 13.

Parabolic light lens (chrome or gold mirror finish) cleaning time is one-half minute. Reduce powder soap to 4 ounces. Reduce temperature to 85° and turn down the power amplitude knob on the front of each generator to between 3 and 5. The sheeteze will leave a film on the lens if you use too much. The lens will spot if you use too little. The exact amount will vary by the water in the area.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: VERTICAL VANES

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 61. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Cleaning 1. When cleaning fabric verticals, put all the vanes from the same window in at once. Put in on its side, run one minute, then turn the vanes over and run for one more minute. 2. Fabric vertical vanes that are extremely dirty or stained can be soaked in the ultrasonic tank for 3-5 minutes before turning on the ultrasound. Depending on how dirty they are, run them for 2-4 minutes. 3.

Clean metal vertical vanes the same as metal mini blinds, using caution. 4. Powdered bleach can be used if fabric is extremely dirty. When using powdered bleach for vertical or pleated shades, remember to change the water before cleaning metal blinds. The metal and bleach do not mix well. 5.

Bad stains on fabric verticals that don't come out after regular cleaning can be removed with a waterless hand cleaner on both sides of the fabric and then let set for 5-10 minutes, then put in the ultrasonic tank and run for an additional 2 minutes. 6. When you have a large quantity of vinyl vanes to clean (250 or more), try adding approximately ½ cup of Mrs. Smiths Bluing in the rinse tank.

Yellowed and gray verticals come out to their original white color. 7. By adding ½ cup of Mrs. Smith Bluing in the rinse tank, yellowed and gray verticals come out to their original white color. 8. When cleaning verticals with fabric inserts, be careful of the plastic sleeve. The edge that holds the fabric in the sleeve gets very brittle with age and can break very easily.

I suggest telling the customer of the problem to protect yourself. 9. Do not clean mirrored verticals, macramé verticals, wool and silk verticals, and of course, vertical vanes with wallpaper inserts. Shrinkage 1. We have experienced shrinkage in fabric vertical vanes. I some cases, the verticals appeared to be made from polyester, but when the content was investigated, the threads connecting the fabric were made of cotton.

So what the remedy? If in doubt, measure the vane prior to cleaning and only clean one vane. Let it dry and check the size. If you find it has shrunk, re-wet the vane and stretch the vane back to the correct size and hang to dry as usual. You can do this with the remainder of the vanes or call the customer and advise. 2. Be careful of vertical vanes with fabric inserts.

On some, the fabric has been laminated onto cardboard before it was inserted into the vane. They clean up great, but the cardboard shrinks when it is dried, causing the fabric to pucker. It's a good idea to check and advise the customer if they have this type of inserted verticals.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: WATER EXTRACTOR

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 62. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

We have an all stainless steel water extractor that removes 95% of the water from fabric vertical vanes. It is used in conjunction with a 3.0 HP Sears Wet Vac. All you have to do is pull the vane across the chammel guided extractor, and the water is sucked out. The vanes are ready to be re-hung immediately. It works on vinyl vanes as well. No more hanging vanes and waiting an hour-plus to dry.

Those of you who are mobile will really appreciate this. Drying Vanes – Vinyl or Aluminum 1. Verticals can be a pain to hang. Try stringing clothes lines or steel wire and use plastic clothes pins to hang vinyl or aluminum vanes. We use a 2'x2'x8' board with cup hooks screwed into it at 1"-2" spaces. We hang he board from the ceiling with jack chain.

When we need to dry verticals, we can raise or lower the board according to the length of the vane. When we don't need it, we raise it up out of the way. 2. One dealer uses an actual vertical track with a special glide that vanes can be quickly snapped in and out. 3. After cleaning and rinsing fabric vertical vanes, one dealer stretched bungie cords across the top of his machine. He then laid the vanes on top.

This allows them to drain and he also doesn't have to get his hands wet each time he takes one out to pull across the vertical water extractor.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: LIGHT LENSES, PARABOLIC LENSES

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 63. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Cleaning 1. Light lenses – diffusers (plastic off-white color) are cleaned one half at a time. One minute on one side, then flip and run one more minute. The thickness dictates how many can be cleaned at one time. 2. Parabolic, also known as para-cube, are the lenses that have a chrome or gold-tone finish.

Here are a few tips on cleaning: fill tank to about 13” above rack and use half the normal amount of soap in the ultrasonic tank. Temperature should be set at 85°. Turn down the power amplitude knob on the front of each generator to between 3 and 5. This will reduce the possibility of removing the chrome finish. Use plain tap water in the rinse tank. Do not use Sheeteze. Have third rinse tank for final rinse.

Use DI water in this tank. Third rinse tank can be anything that holds water, in which lenses can be submerged. A child’s wading pool will do. DI water can be obtained from Culligan Water Company. Run ultrasonics for ½ minute, turn lens and run for another ½ minute. After lenses are rinsed in third rinse tank, use an air compressor with a water filter to blow off excess water.

Lenses can then be leaned against wall at an angle to air dry. Do not dry in sun, as it will cause water spotting. Use cotton gloves or surgical gloves for handling lenses, as they finger mark very easily. Pricing on a large job, 1500 or more, is $3.50-$4.50, if they remove and hang. $6.50-$7.00 if you remove and hang.

I’ve been told that some companies in the mid-west and east coast are getting between $7.50-$15.00 for this service. 3. Note: Always handle parabolic lenses with plastic or cotton gloves to avoid getting fingerprints on the Mylar reflective surfaces.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: WOODEN BLINDS, PLEATED SHADES, DUETTES,

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 64. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Silhouettes and Woven Woods Wooden Blinds Although I do not recommend cleaning wooden blinds in the ultrasound, some of our dealers do. Some submerge the woods for 30 seconds or less. Others hold the bottom and head rails together and slowly raise and lower them into the ultrasound. The method we recommend is to clean them by hand using some type of wood cleaner, such as Pledge.

The holes by the cords and also the ends of the slats are not finished, so water can be absorbed by the wood, causing it to swell. We charge $4.00 more per blind for hand cleaning. We have not had any price resistance. Whichever method you choose is fine, just don't turn the business away. Pleated and Duette Shades 1. Clean the same as mini blinds 2.

Pleated and duette shades that are extremely dirty can be soaked for 1-2 minutes before turning on the ultrasound. 3. Do not clean pleated shades with metallic backing. 4. On cleaning pleated shades with the silver backing: clean them in the closed position with the silver side facing up. Keep them together with a loose-fitting rubber band. In the rinse tank, open them to ensure proper rinsing. 5.

Be careful of pleated shades made by Graber. After only being in the ultrasound for a few seconds, the paint started to come off the head and bottom rail. If you experience this problem, hold the bottom and head rails out of the water during cleaning. We have had problems with the paint coming off the head and bottom rails on the Graber micro mini blinds as well. 6.

Pleated shades that have mildew on them come out great by adding 1 ½ cups of liquid bleach to the water (white or off-white color). 7. Caution: When using the powdered bleach or liquid bleach for pleated shades, remember to change the water before cleaning metal blinds. The metal and bleach do not mix well. Silhouette Shade 1.

Release shade so that the silhouette is fully extended and with the slats in a slightly closed position. Submerge the shade into the wash side of the tank. Operate the ultrasound for one minute. DO NOT IMMERSE THE HEAD RAIL IN WATER. 2. Remove the silhouette from the wash tank at an angle so the excess weight of the water does not damage the individual slats. 3.

Submerge the shade into the rinse side of the tank and move the silhouette back and forth, completely removing any soap residue. DO NOT IMMERSE THE HEAD RAIL IN WATER. 4. Hang the shade by the head rail with clamps and allow to dry at an angle. Be sure slats are in a semi-closed position. Mylar Window Shades When cleaning, unroll shade and slowly pull shade through the ultrasonics. Use the same solution as the mini blinds.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: WOVEN WOODS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 65. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. Some of the thickly woven woods have had problems with the stain from the wood slats bleeding onto the yarn. In the carpet cleaning business, this is what's known as a "brown out". It is caused when the yarn does not dry quickly. If you are cleaning woven woods, dry them in the sun for best results or use a wet vac to remove all excess water and hang to dry in a warm place. Never lay them down to dry.

There is a special solution that is used on carpeting and upholstery that will remove the brown out. It should have a similar result on woven woods. 2. Do not clean woven woods with painted slats.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: WOOD I CLEAN THAT BLIND?

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 66. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

1. Cleaning wood blinds A. Supplies: a. soft tip hand brush b. knit gloves c. wood cleaner (Murphy's Oil Soap) d. wood polish (Pledge) e. cloth B. Procedure: a. Dust loose dirt away with hand brush b. Mix wood cleaner as per label instructions. Dip gloves in wood cleaner, then wring out tightly. Wipe each slat using gloved hands. Tilt slats up and wipe the bottom of all slats (rinsing gloves as needed).

Wipe both sides with dry cloth if needed or allow to air dry. c. Natural finish wood only. Spray top and bottom of slats with polish. Rub polish in with another pair of clean and dry gloves 2. Turning Slats A. Procedure a. After cleaning, untie cords from bottom rail and pull all cords up through the slats, stopping before the head rail holes b. Flip all slats over and re-string the blind. 3.

Prices Charged Cleaning = $20 to $30 for small blinds or $30 to $40 for large blinds. Polishing = add $5 to $10 to cleaning fee. Turning slats = add $10 to $20 to cleaning fee.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: CLEANING AGENTS: DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 68. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Special Note: All Omegasonics' Cleaning Agents are very concentrated and will work best in soft water. We recommend water with a hardness of 0.5 grains or lower. Powder Soap Premix 3 gallons of hot water with 8 ounces (1 cup) of the powdered soap. Stir briskly to fully dissolve. Pour this mixture into the ultrasonic wash water. This will clean approximately 40 blinds. The volume of water in your tank is not critical.

Always run your equipment for 15 minutes to properly degas the ultrasonic tank water. Emulsifier/Surfactant Note: Emulsifier is not required for Omegasonics Series 7200, 7200 Plus or 8000 machines. Premix 3 gallons of hot water with 2 ounces of the emulsifier/surfactant and stir briskly. Also pour this solution in the ultrasonic wash water.

Remember to run your equipment for 15 minutes to properly de-gas the ultrasonic tank water. Sheeteze Drying Agent Premix 3 gallons of hot water with 2 ounces of the Sheeteze drying agent. Stir briskly so that the solution dissolves fully. Pour this mixture into your rinse tank water. You can effectively dry 40 blinds.

Citrus Degreaser The citrus degreaser gives extra cleaning power for blinds that are especially greasy or for smoke damaged items. The citrus degreaser also helps give the finished blinds a pleasant, citrus scent. There are three different ways to use this product. 1. The citrus degreaser works as an effective pre-spray for blinds.

We recommend diluting the degreaser 25:1 and letting it sit on the blinds 30-60 seconds prior to placing them in the wash tank. 2. The degreaser can be used directly in your ultrasonic unit by adding it to your ultrasonic wash tank along with the powdered soap and emulsifier (if required). We recommend adding 3 to 5 ounces of citrus degreaser. 3.

For cleaning smoke-damaged items, a maximum ratio of 15:1 to a minimum ration of 30:1 is recommended in the ultrasonic wash tank. For questions regarding cleaning agent use, please contact: OMEGASONICS 330 E Easy St. Suite A •Simi Valley •CA •93065 •USA Phone (805) 583-0875 •(800) 669-8227 •Fax (805) 583-0561 Email omegaonics@earthlink.net •www.omegasonics.com 330 E.

Easy St., Suite A • Simi Valley, CA 93065 USA Phone: (805) 583-0561 • www.omegasonics.com • email: omegasonics@earthlink.net Toll Free (800) 669-8227

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: SPECIAL NOTE – WATER QUALITY

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 69. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Our cleaning agents are designed to work in soft water. The proportions recommended are based on use with soft water. If your water is hard, you will need to add more soap to the ultrasonic tank. If you already have soft water, use it. If not, rent a soft water tank from Culligan, Rayne or any conditioned water supplier. If you have no access to soft water, a water conditioner, i.e. White King water Conditioner, can be added.

Water Conditioners, however, do not remove calcium and mineral deposits from the water. Conditioners simply attach an additional molecule to the calcium that changes the calcium into a different molecule that is not as hard. You will have better results when using a conditioner versus hard water, but nothing beats true soft water.

Since the cleaning agents are concentrated, it is advisable to dissolve them in hot water before adding them to the tank.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: FIRST, CLEAN YOUR WATER

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 70. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Treated water cleans better Stretches chemicals and saves money. By Tom Williams Few cleaning tasks can be Some experts estimate (mg/l). All of these terms accomplished without water, that softened water can simply refer to the amount of sometimes called the reduce chemical minerals in a given amount of universal solvent. The local expenditures by as much water.

Natural water supplies water supply can comprise as 50 percent. in the US range from 1 to 350 95 percent or more of your in- gpg.

Water over 3.5 gpg (60 use chemicals, yet how many • The unsightly hard water ppm) is considered cleaning managers consider spots or streaks left on “moderately hard” and water what kind of water they are cleaned surfaces like of 1 gpg or less is considered using and how it affects what floors or window glass. relatively soft. A handful of they do?

Iron in water, for municipal water supplies, instance, can leave such as New York City’s, is Hard water – water brown or red stains. A relatively soft.

A few regions containing significant hard water problem can – mountain areas of New amounts of the ions of be an especially sensitive England and the Middle calcium, magnesium and issue in the Atalantic states, parts of the other materials – is common warewashing, food Southeast and much of the in the U.S.

It has been service, laundry or health Pacific Northwest – have estimated that about 85 care areas, where stains water that is naturally softer percent of the nation’s water can raise questions in the than others. can be improved with mind of the patient, client softening. The problems or guest.

The Water Quality caused by hard water Association (WQA), an include: • The hard water mineral international trade group of scale that builds up in dealers and manufacturers of • Its reaction with soaps hot-water machines or point-of-use water quality and detergents to form piping systems – whether improvement systems, says an insoluble curd or scum in a building’s HVAC that most people recognize that is deposited on boiler or in a carpet that water containing more restroom fixtures, textiles, cleaner’s truck mount. than about 15 gpg is hard laundry or other items These deposits clog and difficult to use. being cleaned.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: CERTIFIES PROFESSIONALS WHO CONDITIONS. AGAIN, A QUALIFIED QUALITY QUATERNARY

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 71. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

meet various technical and treatment dealer or disinfectants or germicides ethical standards for consultant will help you that are formulated to remain analyzing water and understand these problems active in hard water. recommending treatment and treatment methods. options.

More information “When you’re mopping the can be obtained by writing In the meantime, you may floor with a four or five-gallon the WQA, PO Box 606, Lisle, have to make the best of a bucket of quat disinfectant IL 60532. situation requiring the use of and you’ve got a lot of hard- water that is less than ideal water ions in there, what Treatment May Be for cleaning.

Cleaning happens is that the quat Essential professionals have some treats those ions as dirt or suggestions in that area. soil,” Pickens explains. “So, Any cleaning professional before you even pick up any who has had to struggle with Using What You Have dirty stuff off the floor, your hard water doesn’t need to quat may already be used up. be convinced that treatment Some commonly-available The quat attaches itself to is not only helpful but cleaning products are those ions.

That’s why you essential in many formulated with water want to have a quat or communities. For example, conditioning compounds, germicide that is active up to in a study of six hotel/motels according to EcoWater’s 400 ppm (about 23 gpg) of in Chicago, IL area, WQA Levin.

Although these can hard water.” He says that he researchers concluded that make a bad hard-water has heard of a few water softening equipment situation better. Levin says a communities where water installed in a hotel with water buyer of these products can occasionally exceeds that in the 8-21 gpg range could save a lot by using soft water hardness, especially if there pay for itself within one year. in the first place.

That’s is a breakdown or temporary The harder a hotel’s water, because, in some cases, a inactivity of municipal the more savings were very high percentage of the treatment equipment. produced by softening, the cleaning products is study found. conditioner.

One other note: Some environmental advocates Softening reduced costs In a very-hard water situation, suggest adding “natural” significantly for maid service, it helps to look for products softening products such as cleaning supplies, plumbing containing chelating baking soda, Zeolite or borax repairs and miscellaneous (pronounced KEY-lating) to water.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: STEAM CO. CARPET CARE IN MANGANESE (HARD WATER)

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 72. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Rockford mounts softening problems and will prevent equipment on its trucks in the boiler scale buildup in hot form of a standard resin tank water heaters, he says. hooked into the piping of the truck-mounted extraction “When that cartridge runs cleaning system, says Missy out, the guys know it,” Catron Smith, company manager. says. “That wand won’t slide The softener must be across the carpet as easy.” manually regenerated or He explains that the device’s back-washed about once a softening effect changes the week after a normal week of surface tension of the water, carpet cleaning, she says. allowing an extractor wand to Regeneration is a...

In a pinch, a it’s a sure bet that, unless partial, 10-minute you have all but the softest regeneration can be done at water, your operation can a job site. profit from treating it, says those familiar with the Automatic electronic subject.

You’ll spend less on regeneration controls (typical chemicals and your crew’s of home softeners) shouldn’t time won’t be taken up be used on a truck-mount fussing over ineffective softener because the controls cleaning agents in hard can’t withstand the pounding water.

Best of all, your from the truck’s motion. customer’’ floors, carpets, restrooms and windows will Although a contractor can look better bring soft water to a cleaning site in a truck tank, it may not always be enough to complete a job, Smith says. “Sometimes we would run out of water by 3 p.m., and we would have to refill at the client’s house,” she says. “And there was no guarantee that the house would have soft water.” The portable softener backs up each truck’s 70-gallon water tank. “It alleviates a lot of headaches,” she says.

Another system used on truck mounds or on-site water supply systems is a simple cartridge device that self- feeds a polyphosphate sequestering agent into the cold water feed line, according to Bill Catron, president of Midwest Distributors, Inc., a Chillicothe, OH, Sanitary supply business. It can help alleviate iron (rust) and

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: REPAIRING AND SELLING BLINDS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 86. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

The following telephone numbers may help you in obtaining parts for mini-blind repairs.

We have listed only those manufacturers who make the most popular blinds on the market: Alta (800) 669-6333 California Window Coverings (800) 344-5993 (formerly Hollywood Blinds) Graeber (800) 544-9534 (Spring Window Fashions) Hunter Douglas (800) 438-3883 Levolor Home Fashions (800) 232-2028 Levolor Del Mar (800) 233-5627 Levolor Kirsch (800) 528-1407 Levolor Voice Mail (800) 828-8799 Levolor Bali (800) 854-1861 Skandia (800) 523-1250 RE-CORDING When replacing cords on mini blinds, try attaching new cord to old cord with shrink sleeving (can be purchased in most hardware store electrical departments).

Slip each end in sleeve, heat with match or hair dryer to shrink and simply pull cord through. Unlike using regular tape, shrink sleeving does not pull apart and will go through all the mechanisms in top of blinds. REPAIRING DUETTE SHADES Try using a glue called “Weld-Bond”. It is white and dries clear. Run glue in a think line where separation occurs. Use a paper clip to hold the shade tight.

Open shade in 1 to 1½ hours (do not leave closed for a longer duration than this). Gently separate any area where glue may have run onto the shade. Repair Parts Blind Speed Larry Kaufman 6636 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92115 619-286-0727 REPAIR KITS Dave Reichle has put together a repair kit consisting of mini blind parts from the major manufacturers. The prices for the kits are about $130.00, plus shipping.

Dave also has individual repair parts available. To order, contact him at: American Blind Cleaning 9076 Artesia Blvd. Bellflower, CA 90706 (562) 920-2710

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: SELLING BLINDS

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 87. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

For those of you who sell blinds, here is an idea that is working well for many businesses. With every purchase, offer blind cleaning at ½ the regular price within one year. Nine (9) months after the purchase date, send them a reminder card about their special offer. This works well with residential customers and, surprisingly, even more effective in the commercial market.

The ½ price for cleaning in most areas is about what commercial jobs would be bid anyway. Give it a try. (The secret is the reminder card.) If you decide to offer blind repairs or sales, contact the various blind manufacturers for color samples, etc. You will need an account number to place any order. When you contact the manufacturer, tell them you are interested in setting up an account for your company.

Once you have an account number, they don’t monitor what you buy.

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

REFERENCE: REPAIR PRICE LIST

Source: Blind Cleaning Manual – All Models, PDF page 92. Historical guidance; apply only where compatible with the Elite 8000 and the specific blind material.

Our company offers a complete repair and cleaning service for Mini-Blinds. The following is a current price list. It includes the most frequently requested of our services. Additional services are available and will be quoted upon request.

Repairs (prices include parts) Cut Down Blinds $12.50 Shorten Blinds $10.00, 2-3 ladders $15.00, 4+ ladders Replace Slats $ 1.00 per foot $10.00 minimum Re-cord Blinds $20.00, 2-3 ladders $30.00, 4+ ladders Replace Tilter Control $17.50 Parts End Brackets $ 4.00 Support Brackets $ 1.00 Hook and Sleeve $ 1.00 End Caps $ 0.50 Ladder Caps $ 0.40 Hold Down Brackets $ 1.00 Mini Blind Cleaning Up to 60” wide $12.50 ea.

60”-96” wide $16.50 ea. Over 96” wide $ 2.00 ea. Add ft. Contract prices available

Operator reminder: Inspect, document existing damage, test questionable materials, rinse thoroughly and dry completely before packaging.

PRE-CLEANING INTAKE CHECKLIST

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Record customer/job number, room, window location and quantity of blinds.
- ☐ Identify blind type, material, finish and manufacturer label.
- ☐ Photograph front, back, headrail and visible defects before cleaning.
- ☐ Check for oxidation, brittle slats, broken ladders, damaged cords and loose adhesives.
- ☐ Confirm whether the headrail contains a motor or electrical controls.
- ☐ Record whether a test clean was performed and the customer approved the work.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

MATERIAL COMPATIBILITY DECISION

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Aluminum and vinyl: check coating stability and age before immersion.
- ☐ Fabric verticals: check fiber content, dye stability, shrinkage and adhesive construction.
- ☐ Cellular and pleated shades: confirm immersion suitability and test inconspicuously.
- ☐ Sheer shades: support delicate fabric and keep vulnerable headrails dry.
- ☐ Natural wood, woven wood and metallic films: use non-immersion methods unless specifically approved.
- ☐ Stop and document whenever compatibility is uncertain.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

DAILY OPENING INSPECTION

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Confirm machine is level and casters are secure.
- ☐ Inspect power cord and accessible electrical components for damage or moisture.
- ☐ Check both drain valves are closed before filling.
- ☐ Inspect tanks, support rack, hoses and fittings.
- ☐ Confirm wash and rinse water levels meet machine requirements.
- ☐ Check detergent concentration against current product directions.
- ☐ Verify controls and low-water protection function as expected.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

FILLING WORKSHEET

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Main wash tank: record fill level and water source.
- ☐ Rinse channel: record fill level and water clarity.
- ☐ If fitted, confirm the weir and filtration circuit have sufficient water.
- ☐ Record actual filled volume used for detergent calculations.
- ☐ Mix detergent according to current label; never assume an older recipe applies.
- ☐ Check for leaks at both drains before powering equipment.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

TEMPERATURE AND CYCLE RECORD

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Record actual wash bath temperature before each group of blinds.
- ☐ Use material-appropriate temperature; historical mini-blind guidance favors approximately 100–110°F.
- ☐ Record the initial ultrasonic exposure time.
- ☐ Inspect the blind within 60 seconds, or sooner for delicate materials.
- ☐ If repeating a cycle, record the additional time and the reason.
- ☐ Stop immediately for finish changes, loose coatings or distortion.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

PRE-CLEANING INSPECTION RACK

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Open or extend the blind sufficiently to see individual slats and ladders.
- ☐ Check both sides under adequate lighting.
- ☐ Inspect headrail, tilt mechanism, bottom rail and end caps.
- ☐ Look for preexisting spotting, stains and surface deterioration.
- ☐ Tag each blind so it returns to the correct room and window.
- ☐ Document defects that cleaning will not correct.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

ALUMINUM MINI-BLIND PROCEDURE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Inspect slat finish and oxidation; test if the coating is questionable.
- ☐ Collapse the blind carefully without crushing slats.
- ☐ Lower into the wash bath using the support arrangement.
- ☐ Use a brief ultrasonic cycle and inspect before any repeat.
- ☐ Lift at an angle to reduce trapped-water weight and slat bending.
- ☐ Rinse thoroughly; open slats and hang at an angle to dry.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

VINYL MINI-BLIND PROCEDURE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Check for heat damage, brittleness and surface deterioration.
- ☐ Confirm plastic components tolerate the planned wash temperature.
- ☐ Avoid twisting or compressing slats while loading.
- ☐ Start with a short cycle and inspect immediately.
- ☐ Rinse until detergent residue is removed.
- ☐ Dry fully before stacking or packaging.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

FABRIC VERTICAL VANE PROCEDURE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Keep vanes from each window grouped and identified.
- ☐ Check fiber content, dye bleed, shrinkage and bonded backing.
- ☐ Do not immerse fabrics that fail the compatibility test.
- ☐ Handle vanes in manageable groups without bunching or creasing.
- ☐ Rinse individually as needed and hang straight with good airflow.
- ☐ Check dimensions and appearance after drying.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

CELLULAR AND PLEATED SHADE PROCEDURE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Inspect fabric, pleats, glue lines and metallic backing.
- ☐ Obtain manufacturer approval for immersion when possible.
- ☐ Test a hidden area and stop if adhesive or dye is unstable.
- ☐ Support the shade to prevent stretching or crushing.
- ☐ Use the shortest effective wash and gentle rinse.
- ☐ Allow complete airflow drying before retracting.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

SHEER AND SILHOUETTE SHADE PROCEDURE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Confirm material and construction are safe for wet cleaning.
- ☐ Protect vulnerable headrails and operating mechanisms.
- ☐ Support sheer material throughout handling and immersion.
- ☐ Avoid extended ultrasonic exposure and aggressive agitation.
- ☐ Rinse carefully without twisting or wringing.
- ☐ Hang by the headrail at an angle and dry fully.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

RINSING QUALITY CONTROL

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Use clean rinse water and refresh it when soiled.
- ☐ Move the blind gently to release detergent from slats and cords.
- ☐ Look for foaming, film or slippery residue that indicates incomplete rinsing.
- ☐ Avoid overhandling fragile materials.
- ☐ Allow excess rinse water to drain back into the rinse channel.
- ☐ Check for mineral spotting during final inspection.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

DRYING AND PACKAGING

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Hang each blind at an angle to encourage drainage.
- ☐ Open slats and separate vanes for airflow.
- ☐ Do not trap moisture in a closed headrail or fabric cell.
- ☐ Avoid hot vehicles and prolonged direct sun while wet.
- ☐ Confirm cords, rails and fabric are dry before wrapping.
- ☐ Tag each completed blind with its original location.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

END-OF-DAY CLEANING

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Switch off equipment and follow electrical isolation precautions.
- ☐ Remove visible debris from tank and accessible strainers.
- ☐ Inspect the water condition and decide whether solution replacement is needed.
- ☐ Check rinse water clarity and replace if necessary.
- ☐ Wipe exterior stainless surfaces with compatible products.
- ☐ Leave the work area clean, dry and free of trip hazards.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

SAFE DRAINING AND REFILLING

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Turn off power, isolate electrical supply and let the bath cool.
- ☐ Connect a suitable drain hose or position a collection container.
- ☐ Identify the rinse drain and main wash drain before opening.
- ☐ Open one valve slowly and control wastewater discharge.
- ☐ Dispose of wastewater according to local requirements.
- ☐ Close both valves before refilling; inspect for leaks.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

TROUBLESHOOTING FIELD CHECK

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ No power: check facility supply and controls; refer electrical work to qualified personnel.
- ☐ No ultrasound: check water level, timer and SONICS selection.
- ☐ Poor cleaning: review chemistry, bath temperature, degassing and loading.
- ☐ Spotting: check rinse water, water hardness and drying.
- ☐ Finish damage: stop, photograph and notify the customer.
- ☐ Pump problems: check water level and accessible filter condition with power isolated.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____

FINAL INSPECTION AND RELEASE

Elite 8000 operator worksheet — complete the checks relevant to the blind type and installed machine configuration.

- ☐ Compare the blind to intake photos and notes.
- ☐ Inspect both sides for residue, spotting, finish damage and deformation.
- ☐ Confirm tilt, lift and cord operation where safe and appropriate.
- ☐ Ensure the headrail, slats and fabric are completely dry.
- ☐ Document any remaining stains or preexisting defects.
- ☐ Record completed quantity, operator and customer disposition.

Job / customer: _____

Date: _____ Operator: _____

Notes / exceptions: _____

_____

_____