

## **POLES WITH SCRATCHES**

3Ms “Wet and Dry Fabric Cut” (silicon carbide) is great for removing scratches, stains, and small gouges. To remove scratches - use a technique similar to using a shoeshine cloth on the toe of your shoe.

The “Wet and Dry Fabric Cut” comes in 150 or 100 grit, either is acceptable. It is available as a shelf item at 3M Branch Warehouses in 9” x 11” sheets. Many distributors will stock these products. If you cannot locate this particular product, you might try “Three –M- ite Electro Cut”. Electro Cut is an abrasive aluminum oxide on cloth backing, it is not as good, but is worth the try.

## **POLES WITH STAINS**

For Light Stains- “Eagle 1 Mag Cleaner” or other aluminum wheel cleaners are available at auto parts stores.

To remove heavier stains, a solvent with a hydrofluoric acid base is used. This is available from welding supply distributors. Welders use these to remove oxides, grease, and contaminants from aluminum and stainless steel surfaces to be welded, where a clean surface is imperative. “Heli-Clean”, “Protex – All Clean” and “Ox-Out 536” are two products that are used by various flagpole companies to remove stains from aluminum satin finish poles. In your area, similar products are available from the sources mentioned. Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions on the label. Exercise caution in working with this material, it is toxic.

### **Preparation**

Cut the solvent to a 50% solution by adding equal amounts of water. Rubber gloves and an ample source of water (like a hose) are required for application.

### **Application**

Wearing rubber gloves, immerse a cloth in the solvent and ring it out to remove most of the drip. Wipe the stain with the moist cloth to cover the surface with the solution. Then promptly rinse it off with water. (Caution- if the solvent isn’t rinsed off promptly- the surface will brighten to the point that it doesn’t match the rest of the pole). The stain will be eaten away almost immediately.