

Common PCB Contaminants: Uncommonly Good Cleaning Solutions

Match Your Cleaner to Your Contaminant

In today's world electronic components can be scarce. Fabricators need to make sure every PCB they produce is top quality and functioning without fault. Clean PCBs perform better and live longer, reducing the number of wasted boards going to the scrap pile. Match your cleaner to the PCB contaminant for the best cleaning results.



WHITE RESIDUE

White residues are usually (but not always) salts, which are the “activators” in the fluxes. When these salts meet heat or other chemicals, white residues result and can corrode delicate circuits. Remove white residue with Alcohol-Enhanced Flux Remover – ProClean™ (#MCC-PRO), No-Clean Flux Remover – VeriClean™ (#MCC-DC1) or Lead-Free Flux Remover – PowerClean™ (#MCC-PW210A). ProClean™ Presaturated wipes are ideal for touch-ups. (#MCC-PROW).



LEAD-FREE FLUXES & PASTES

Lead-free fluxes and pastes are soldered at higher temperatures and the residue becomes “cured” and hard to remove. You need real muscle for age-hardened lead-free fluxes. For best results, use Lead-Free Flux Remover – PowerClean™ (#MCC-PW210A).



NO CLEAN FLUXES AND PASTES

Despite the name, many PCB fabricators choose to clean their no-clean fluxes. Especially higher performance boards used in medical, defense or aerospace applications. The No-Clean Flux Remover – VeriClean™ (#MCC-DC1) works great on “no clean” materials.



OA FLUXES AND PASTES

Water-soluble fluxes are also called organic acid (OA) fluxes. These are fluxes primarily composed of organic materials other than rosin or resin. OA fluxes must be thoroughly cleaned since they can corrode the PCBs very quickly. Cleaning OA fluxes and pastes is fast and easy with Alcohol-Enhanced Flux Remover – ProClean™ (#MCC-PRO) which is a mild, plastic-safe defluxer.



RMA FLUXES AND PASTES

For R, RA, RMA and SA fluxes and solder pastes, the best cleaners have high density, high Kb values, low surface tension and low viscosity. The best choices are the Heavy Duty Flux Remover – SuprClean™ (#MCC-SPR), the General Purpose Flux Remover (#MCC-FRC) or the Polar Flux Remover (#MCC-PFR10A).



MARKING INKS

Inks are very tough to remove. Stencil, Squeegee and Misprint Cleaner – ScreenClean™ (#MCC-CDIW) wipes are your best first choice because it is formulated as an ink remover. Also, the Alcohol-Enhanced Flux Remover – ProClean™ (#MCC-PRO) wipes remove alcohol-based inks.



SILICONES

Some board fabricators need to remove a silicone-based conformal coatings or adhesive before rework and repair. VOC-Free Flux Remover – UltraClean™ (#MCC-VOC10A) removes hard-to-clean silicones with ease. Also, VeriClean™ (#MCC-DC1) No-Clean Flux Remover is a Methyl Siloxane formula and cleans residues.



LIGHT GREASE & OILS

Universal Flux Remover (#MCC-UFR10A) removes oils, grease and fingerprints. It dries fast and is nonflammable for safety.

