

To Whom It May Concern,

Here is some basic information on skylight maintenance and care.

If any product is used on an acrylic dome skylight and that product has any amount of ammonia or petroleum or petroleum derivatives in them, it will void skylight warranties. Acrylic being exposed to products like paint, glass cleaners, some insecticides, paint thinners, roofing sealants, certain caulking/sealants will void skylight warranties. These products chemically attack the acrylic causing it to become dry, brittle and eventually crack.

If your skylight has a cracked lens, a sealant may resolve an issue with water penetration, but more than likely will cause the lens to crack. Should you ever wish to clean your acrylic dome skylight and can do so under safe conditions or by hiring a licensed and insured roofing contractor, simply hose it off with water. The dome shape will rinse away most built-up dirt. Remember, a skylight's primary purpose is to bring in "free" light. Usually, a skylight's primary purpose is not to see the sky.

If you still wish to clean your dome skylight more than just hosing it off, then you must use a neutral base product like a mild dish washing soap. Remember that whatever product used can not contain any ammonia or petroleum in it. You may use a product like Novus Plastic Polish. Any debris particles on your acrylic dome can cause scratches in the acrylic so you must hose off the acrylic as much as possible. Use a soft, clean cloth and gently wipe down your acrylic dome, making all your strokes in the same direction. This could lessen the visibility of any scratch marks.

To clean your flat glass skylight, using glass cleaner only on the glass surfaces is acceptable.

Homeowners and or contractors can use a variety of materials in an effort to block out or greatly reduce the amount of sunlight. They might place something over or something under a skylight. Besides reducing the sunlight another desired result of a shade or screen is the hope that they will reduce the heat from the sunlight. There are products like fiberglass mesh or fabric screens, various types of glass, acrylic sheets as well as homemade shading systems. Homeowners sometimes try using linen sheets, towels, or cardboard to reduce the light coming from the skylight.

There are some potential issues with these methods and products. Certain fiberglass screens or shades are treated with chemicals to weatherproof them. This chemical may release a gas, out gassing, when heated. This gas can attack and weaken the acrylic. This will void skylight warranties. For this reason, acrylic dome skylight manufacturers use aluminum mesh screens in their skylights that open even though fiberglass mesh is prominently used throughout the window industry. While there are companies that make professional shades or screening for skylights, quite often they are made to be used with a flat glass skylight.

The other acrylic dome skylight situation that may arise from the placement of a shade underneath it is it could create a heat pocket. This can cause thermal failure of the acrylic dome. While a skylight is always subjected to the sun, it is never recommended to have the condition of having a trapped heat pocket beneath the skylight. Often this intense heat has no escape which creates an oven like affect. The acrylic may either crack or even become warped or sag due to this intense heat pocket. These conditions are not covered by skylight warranties.

Providing this information allows for an understanding of some of the effects of different chemicals and shades and how they may void skylight warranties.