

# HOW TO REMOVE THE SILVER COATING ON A MIRROR

## USING A MIRROR BACK REMOVAL KIT

### IS THE REFLECTIVE COATING SILVER OR ALUMINUM?

A mirror has three parts – the glass, reflective silver coating and the backing paint that protects the silver. Most factories also add a thin protective layer of copper between the silver and the backing paint.

If you remove a small area of backing paint and the metal you see is bright silver rather than pale gold, your mirror might have been made with aluminum rather than silver. Mirror Remover will not dissolve aluminum. You will need to use our Aluminum Remover instead. Most mirrors, especially older mirrors, are silver.

If you want to remove just part of the silver to place an image behind the clear glass, please see our Fine Line Silver Removal Kit.

### SAFETY

- **Storage:** Store all chemicals in a safe, cool, dark place away from children and pets and curious visitors.
- **Gloves:** Wear protective gloves at all times. Wash your hands well after using this kit.
- **Disposal:** Wrap up the used materials in paper and put it in the trash. These chemicals do not require special disposal facilities.
- **Work Surface:** Cover your work surface with several layers of newspaper or plastic. Multi-Strip will remove the finish on your work surface as well as the mirror backing paint.
- **Concentration:** Arrange your time so that you can work without interruption. Be patient – some steps require time to work as described. Do not try to hurry.

### YOU SUPPLY

- The mirror(s) to be repaired
- A gallon of steam distilled water
- Cotton balls and clean paper towel

## STEP 1 – APPLY THE PAINT STRIPPER



1. Cover the mirror backing paint with Multi-Strip.
2. Apply with the paint scraper or by patting it on with your gloved hands.
3. The layer should be thick enough that you cannot see the paint through the stripper.
4. Leave the stripper on the paint until the paint is loose. It can take anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours for the stripper to work depending on the type of paint. Multi-Strip works faster in a warm environment.

## STEP 2 – SCRAP OFF THE PAINT



1. Lift a corner of the stripper to check that the paint peels off easily.
2. If it is still stuck to the glass, replace the stripper and give it more time to work.
3. Use our plastic paint scraper to scrape off the paint and stripper together.

## STEP 3 – WASH THE EXPOSED COPPER/SILVER LAYER



Mix a little Concentrated Glass Cleaner with warm tap water.

Use a cotton ball or new paper towel to wash the Multi-Strip residue off the copper-silver layer.

The metal layer must be clean for the Mirror Remover to work.

## STEP 4 – REMOVE THE COPPER/SILVER LAYER



Use a cotton ball or soft cloth to wipe Mirror Remover over the metal layer.

You do not need to rub – Mirror Remover dissolves clean copper and silver in seconds.

Apply fresh Remover when the dissolving action stops.

## STEP 5 – WASH OFF THE RESIDUE



Wash the bare glass well with Concentrated Cleaner and warm water to remove all chemical residue.

Now that your mirror is pure, clean glass, you can re-silver it using one of our Mirroring Kits. We have complete, illustrated instructions and video tutorials on our website.

This Kit is frequently used by people who want to resilver a special shape of glass such as the rear view mirror on an antique car. For re-silvering a rear view mirror, we suggest either our Mini Silver Kit or 3-D Glass Mirror Kit.

We include **Extra Fine Pumice** in our kit because sometimes you will find that very small spots of silver or paint have not been removed by the Multi-Strip or Mirror Remover.

The best way to find these small spots is to examine the clean glass from the front (non- silvered side). They will show as bright little flashes of silver. Use a cotton ball and damp Pumice to buff out these imperfections without harming the glass. If you do not clean them off now, you will certainly see them when you re-silver the glass.

**ANGEL GILDING**  
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