

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 16, 1994

TO: Delphia Jones, Director, Operation Clean Sweep

FROM: Gary McAdam, Special Projects Coordinator

SUBJECT: ANTI-GRAFFITI PROTECTIVE COATING
FOR STREET MAINTENANCE VEHICLES

OBJECTIVE:

To find a coating that would allow a cost effective procedure for graffiti removal in a field setting on Street Maintenance equipment.

TESTING:

The pilot project assignment was started September 20, 1994. Research was conducted to find a coating that would allow quick and easy graffiti removal on Street Maintenance equipment. On October 18, 1994, a coating was selected and applied to a Street Maintenance vehicle at the Fleet Services 7th Street Yard. The product is called KrystalKote™ and is available from TradeWinds International, Inc. KrystalKote™ is permanent, with up to a 10-year guarantee against fading, peeling and normal wear, and is also completely graffiti-resistant.

Graffiti was applied to the vehicle in the Street Maintenance Yard on several occasions, and graffiti was removed using different removers. On December 9, 1994, Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) conducted a large removal test using chemical remover along with hot water and high pressure on the test vehicle. At the same time, an attempt was made to remove identical graffiti from an unprotected vehicle for comparison purposes (see Video of test).

The KrystalKote™ product was also tested to see if the chemical remover damaged the finish coat on the test vehicle in any way.

FINDINGS:

The Krystalkote™ product performed very well in that graffiti was easily removed in small amounts, as well as in large amounts. Krystalkote™ did not soften or damage in any way when graffiti was removed chemically or with a high-pressure, hot water blaster. The project further showed that graffiti removal from unprotected surfaces was very labor intensive, and just did not work as a practical method of removal. The Krystalkote™ product is also UV-resistant and guaranteed from noticeable fading for a minimum of 10-years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

OCS recommends the Bureau of Street Maintenance change their specifications on all new equipment purchases to have Krystalkote™ product (or equal) required on all new units.

OCS recommends that, as existing Street Maintenance equipment goes into the repair shop at Fleet Services, all units be cleaned and re-painted, when necessary, or Krystalkote™ clear-coated (same type of tested product) at that time.

OCS recommends that Street Maintenance should implement a program at their field locations, to hot/pressure or chemically clean all Krystalkote™-protected equipment that has large amounts of graffiti

OCS recommends that Street Maintenance implement a program to have all equipment in the field inspected by the equipment operator each day, and notify OCS as soon as possible, when recent graffiti is discovered on equipment, so an OCS graffiti cleaning crew could be dispatched to the site immediately.

CONCLUSION:

The product tested by OCS, Krystalkote™, has shown that graffiti can be removed quickly and cost effectively, in a field setting as well as the Maintenance Yard. The Krystalkote product has shown that there is an added benefit to the City of Los Angeles, in the form of a 10-year guarantee against noticeable color fading. The Krystalkote™ product has also shown that it will reduce cleaning costs of equipment, when a proven anti-graffiti protective coating is used.

COATING USED IN TEST:

Product: Krystalkote™ (see attached Data Sheet, MSD Sheet and Cost Sheet)
Manufacturer: TradeWinds International, Inc.
Glendale CA
Contact: Douglass Moody
(818) 500-1921