

# SSPC: The Society for Protective Coatings

## SURFACE PREPARATION SPECIFICATION NO. 3

### Power Tool Cleaning

#### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the requirements for power tool cleaning of steel surfaces.

#### 2. Definition

2.1 Power tool cleaning is a method of preparing steel surfaces by the use of power assisted hand tools.

2.2 Power tool cleaning removes all loose mill scale, loose rust, loose paint, and other loose detrimental foreign matter. It is not intended that adherent mill scale, rust, and paint be removed by this process. Mill scale, rust, and paint are considered adherent if they cannot be removed by lifting with a dull putty knife.

2.3 SSPC-VIS 3, ISO 8501-1:1988 or other visual standards of surface preparation agreed upon by the contracting parties may be used to further define the surface.

#### 3. Reference Standards

3.1 The standards referenced in this specification are listed in Section 3.4 and form a part of the specification.

3.2 The latest issue, revision or amendment of the reference standards in effect on the date of invitation to bid shall govern unless otherwise specified.

3.3 If there is a conflict between the requirements of any of the cited reference standards and the specification, the requirements of the specification shall prevail.

##### 3.4 SSPC SPECIFICATIONS:

SP 1	Solvent Cleaning
VIS 3	Visual Standard for Power- and Hand Tool Cleaned Steel

##### 3.5 International Organization for Standardization (ISO):

8501-1:1988	Preparation of Steel Substrates Before Application of Paints and Related Products: Visual Assessment of Surface Cleanliness, Part I
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#### 4. Surface Preparation Before and After Power Tool Cleaning

4.1 Before power tool cleaning, remove visible oil, grease, soluble welding residue, and salts by the methods outlined in SSPC-SP 1.

4.2 After power tool cleaning and prior to painting, reclean the surface if it does not conform to this specification.

4.3 After power tool cleaning and prior to painting, remove dirt, dust, or similar contaminants from the surface. Acceptable methods include brushing, blow off with clean, dry air, or vacuum cleaning.

#### 5. Methods of Power Tool Cleaning

5.1 Use rotary or impact power tools to remove stratified rust (rust scale).

5.2 Use rotary or impact power tools to remove all weld slag.

5.3 Use power wire brushing, power abrading, power impact or other power rotary tools to remove all loose mill scale, all loose or non-adherent rust, and all loose paint. Do not burnish the surface.

5.4 Operate power tools in a manner that prevents the formation of burrs, sharp ridges, and sharp cuts.

5.5 Regardless of the method used for cleaning, if specified in the procurement documents, feather edges of remaining old paint so that the repainted surface can have a reasonably smooth appearance.

5.6 if approved by the owner, use blast cleaning as substitute cleaning method for this specification.

#### 6. Inspection

6.1 All work and materials supplied under this specification shall be subject to timely inspection by the purchaser or his authorized representative. The contractor shall correct such work or replace such material as is found defective under this specification. In case of dispute the arbitration or settlement procedure established in the procure-

ment documents, if any, shall be followed. If no arbitration or settlement procedure is established, the procedure specified by the American Arbitration Association shall be used.

**6.2** The procurement documents covering work or purchase should establish the responsibility for testing and for any required affidavit certifying full compliance with the specification.

## 7. Safety

**7.1** All safety requirements stated in this specification and its component parts apply in addition to any applicable federal, state, and local rules and requirements. They also shall be in accord with instructions and requirements of insurance underwriters.

## 8. Notes\*

**8.1** While every precaution is taken to insure that all information furnished in SSPC specifications is as accurate, complete, and useful as possible, SSPC cannot assume responsibility or incur any obligation resulting from the use of any materials, paints, or methods specified therein, or of the specification itself.

**8.2** A Commentary Section is available and contains additional information and data relevant to this specification.

The Surface Preparation Commentary, SSPC-SP COM, is not part of this specification. The table below lists the subjects discussed relevant to power tool cleaning and appropriate Commentary Section.

<b>SSPC-SP COM</b>	<b>Section</b>
Film Thickness .....	10
Rust Back .....	4.5
Visual Standards .....	11
Weld Spatter .....	4.4.1

**8.3** Note that the use of visual standards in conjunction with this specification is required only when they are specified in the procurement documents (project specification) covering the work. It is recommended, however, that the use of visual standards be made mandatory in the procurement documents.

SSPC-VIS 3, "Visual Standard for Power- and Hand-Tool Cleaned Steel," provides color photographs for the various grades of surface preparation as a function of the initial condition of the steel. For more information about visual standards, see SSPC-SP COM, Section 11.

\*Notes are not requirements of this specification.