

Paint Stripper with Lye, by Zane Sherman

You can leave this on steel or iron as long as you want to and even if it dries out it will still rinse off. Just takes a lot longer to rinse off if it dries.

However, it should not be left on Aluminum for more than an hour or so at a time as it will dissolve aluminum if left on too long. It will also create hydrogen gas when in contact with aluminum so you wouldn't want to mix it with aluminum in an enclosed area for very long.

You just use as much water as you want paint remover. A gallon will be a good amount to begin with to sort of experiment with. Add corn starch to the water **FIRST** till the water is the color of whole milk. Then stir in the lye slowly till the mixture begins to thicken. Add just enough to make it the consistency of thick gravy.

Paint in on with a brush. A big bristle brush like the ones used to clean tires works good.

Use safety glasses and gloves. It will sting if it gets on the skin but will not burn if rinsed off soon with lots of water. If you do get it on your hands just think of the positive side. It will take your fingerprints off and then you can knock over that safe without leaving fingerprints! :O)

Vinegar will act as a neutralizer.

Let it sit on the tractor, etc., as long as possible without it drying out. Then wash off with the garden hose or a pressure washer if one is available. You can do it as many times as it takes to get it all cleaned off. It will not harm the wiring.

The secret of success is the thickening that the corn starch contributes to the mixture. This allows it to stay where it is put and not run off and dry out too fast. Water and lye would do the same thing if it would stay put but it won't.

We get our lye at the grocery store here but I have heard that it is also an ingredient in some illegal drug and lots of stores no longer carry it.

Zane



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of information and help
for old Ford tractors.*

www.ntractorclub.com