

## Cleaning/Removing Wild Land Fire Retardant Products from Surfaces

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The following are suggestions for cleaning surfaces, such as buildings, homes and vehicles that have been coated with wild land fire retardant products.

- Start cleaning as soon as safety permits. The longer the retardant dries, the more difficult it is to remove completely.
- For smaller and/or more sensitive surfaces, the use of warm water, mild detergent and a soft brush or cloth followed by a clean water rinse is recommended. A presoak can also be helpful in softening the dried on material before brushing off.
- For larger surfaces, pressure washers have been used very effectively. Caution should be observed when using pressure washers on porous surfaces (e.g. stucco) - minimize the power of the spray so as not to loosen the stucco or drive retardant particles deeper into the surface.
- Each type of surface will have different characteristics and may be more or less difficult to clean. Surfaces that are porous such as concrete, stucco and stone are often more difficult to clean. Smooth surfaces like glass, metal and hard plastic are often easier to clean.

Applied fire retardants do not pose a significant risk to humans, pets, wildlife, aquatic life or plant life. Wet retardant and runoff may be slippery, exercise caution when walking in it. Runoff from cleaning operations will often retain a significant red colour. Avoid draining into ditches or streams that run into natural waterways. Check with your local authorities for preferred methods.