

78061 Groom / Stick®

A Unique Non-abrasive Paper Cleaner

Groom / Stick® is a novel form of natural rubber with specific properties combining to create a surface dry-cleaner of high efficiency.

The rubber's natural structure has been modified to make it permanently soft, knead-able and strongly tacky. Moisture, solvents and chemical additives have been excluded.



As a non-abrasive, non-staining cleaner of paper and other library materials, Groom/Stick® gently but positively picks up a wide range of foreign matter. Graphite, carbon, charcoal, chalk, crayon, dry powder colours, mould spores, dust, dirt and grease are cleanly lifted off the surface and held in a “molecular trap” from which there is no escape!

The process is fast and smear-free. It is demonstrated by lightly rolling a Groom/stick “cigar” across a freshly-printed newspaper. Excess print ink is removed instantly – without blurring the print or soiling adjacent clean areas.

Ordinary solid or granular rubber / resin erasers abrade, smudge, crumble or produce clinging debris. Groom / stick sacrifices nothing of itself, leaves no dirty fragments to brush away (or mould spores to regenerate in concealed areas) and is always ready and clean to use.

This product is made from natural rubber which is often blended from different crops and sources. The intensive milling to soften the original mass can sometimes contribute to the normal odour of this natural material. A more intensive odour does not mean that this product is spoiled in any way. Intensive odour becomes much less of a problem if the material is left uncovered before use. Refrigerating the Groom/Stick for a short while also helps.

Dry-Surface-Cleaning:

Mechanical and dry-surface-cleaning materials are indispensable in the removal of minute soot particles. Depending on the surface to be cleaned, appropriate materials might include the use of erasers: eraser powder such as Skum-X, block erasers, particularly art gum and vinyl erasers, and mechanical erasers (Selick 1996). Elizabeth Moffatt (1992) points out that many of the dry-surface-cleaning materials that are particularly suited to soot removal are composed of vulcanized rubber: Skum-X eraser powder, Groom / Stick Molecular Trap, and soot sponges. Where bulk cleaning procedures are appropriate, an object can be cleaned in a tray of eraser powder. Fine glass beads (e.g., B.T. 13) can be used to lift and hold soot from a surface. Groom/Stick Molecular Trap has a particular ability to pick up and hold soot and is useful for surfaces that are porous or textured or have tiny recesses. Groom/Stick® can be used by hand or applied on the end of an applicator stick or other tool. Soot sponges are very useful for cleaning many surfaces and can be used full size or cut into smaller blocks. Cotton batting and soft wipes such as the brand Webril Wipe or Dust Bunny can be used in a gentle lifting motion; broad rubbing motions should be avoided unless a surface is not porous or textured. Dry-surface-cleaning materials are also useful when testing for the presence of a light soot layer on an object. A small block of soot sponge of Groom/Stick® rubbed onto a lightly sooty surface will pick up some soot, where a stab dampened with a cleaning solvent will not.

Storing Groom/Stick:

Groom/Stick should be stored at normal room temperature. If it is stored at high temperatures or exposed to outside pressure it can change its appearance. To restore the original appearance and consistency, please place the pack into a refrigerator or deep freeze for about an hour. This will make it easy to peel the protective plastic off the rubber. Small pieces of the rubber should be stretched and folded on itself for a few minutes to bring the rubber back to a more normal working consistency. Care should be taken in working with the product not to press it against a document with more than light pressure and very short dwell time.