

A Clear View: Division 9 Finds A Better Way To Clean Bus Windows

By JENNIFER YEH

(Nov. 20, 2002) Hard water spots and graffiti on bus windows have long been major problems for MTA.

Now a new cleaning product discovered by San Gabriel Valley Division 9's Service Attendant Leader Mike Morris holds a promise of cleaning windows more quickly and efficiently.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER YEH

A maintenance employee at San Gabriel Valley Division 9 demonstrates how hard water spots are removed using a new window cleaner product.

The new product is a non-abrasive wax-like polish that removes water spots and graffiti on windows. It's applied with a sponge and a pneumatic buffer and rinsed off with a hose.



On the job: Zani Clean

The process saves maintenance staffs a lot of time, says Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, Raul Rodriguez. One application can last up to several months.

"Because the buses are washed every day, hard water spots are usually left on the windows and head signs," says Rodriguez. "Since using this product, bus operators are really happy. They can see more clearly out the windows."

Called Zani Clean, the product is manufactured by High Desert Products, Inc. located in Hesperia, Calif. They have in the past also provided MTA with cleaning materials for bus seat cushions.

Rodriguez says some of the previous approaches used to clean the windows at the division included vinegar and several other home products.

"Other divisions are working on ways to get their windows cleaned, however our way is working for us," he says, adding that MTA could save hundreds of dollars in maintenance costs.

Maintenance Manager John McBryan breaks down the cost to \$36 for every bus. That includes \$3.75 per can and the cost of time and labor compared to \$700, which is about how much it would cost to hire an outside cleaning service.

The product is still on a test basis awaiting approval from quality assurance.

"Once the product is approved, all the divisions will get the product," says Rodriguez. "They've been trying other buffers and polishers to see

which is the easiest to use, but right now we think we have it down.”

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