

Al Etch L

Al Etch L is a concentrated, liquid, alkaline etchant for use on Aluminum and its alloys. It produces a uniform, satin-like finish on aluminum that is free from heavy scale. Unlike powders that are dusty, Al Etch L is easy to use and can be diluted to a 6%/ vol solution with tap water for metering into the tank. Al Etch L always has some dissolved aluminum in the solution ensuring little to no scale build up on the tank and heating coils thus reducing overall maintenance of the equipment. Immersion times can be varied from 30 seconds to 15 minutes when working on different alloys. Temperature of operation is typically 100°F to 175°F.

Features & Benefits

Highly concentrated	Small inventory footprint
Controls aluminum build up	Longer life; lower process cost

Physical Data

Form	Clear liquid
Odor	Odorless
Specific gravity	1.53

Highly alkaline, Sodium Hydroxide based.

Operating Conditions

Bath make up	6% / vol
Range of temperature	100°F – 175°F
Immersion times	1 – 10 min

Operational Recommendations

1. Range of concentration is 0.5 – 10% / volume. A standard starting concentration is 6% / volume.
2. Optimum-working concentration is determined based on alloy, condition of the surface, immersion time and temperature.

3. The working bath should be well ventilated.

Equipment

Tank construction for Al Etch L may be constructed out of mild steel. The deoxidizer before Al Etch L should be constructed of stainless steel (Type 316- weldable stainless steel is recommended)

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For more information on this process,
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