

Service Letter: 450  
Date: June 2, 2018  
Title: Exterior Washing  
Models: 7EC (serial numbers 2006 and up); 7ECA, 7GCAA, 7KCAB, 7GCBC, 8KCAB and 8GCBC (all serial numbers)  
Description: Routine cleaning of exterior surfaces of the airplane is necessary to maintain condition of the paint and fabric. The aircraft should be washed every 180 days or when it appears dirty. Aerobatic operation may requires more frequent washing due to oil residue from the engine breather. Insect residue must be removed from the propeller, cowling, wing struts, brace wires, leading edges, and landing gear after every flight to maintain the finish and assure flying characteristics. High quality automotive wax should be applied to the exterior painted surfaces annually.  
  
The procedures described herein are not intended to be a substitute for a properly performed 100-hour / annual inspection. Refer to Advisory Circular (AC) 43.13-1B: Acceptable Methods, Techniques, and Practices: Aircraft Inspection and Repair.

Exterior Wash:

1. Cover fuel vent opening, pitot opening, and both static ports with masking tape.
2. Wet with mist or light stream of warm, fresh, clean water; rinse away any loose dirt.
3. Wash by applying diluted detergent using clean, soft sponge.
4. Rinse with light steam of fresh, clean water.
5. Dry with cotton terry cloth or soft chamois.
6. Optional: Apply Race Glaze to leading edges or entire aircraft. Buff off when dry with clean microfiber cloth.
7. Remove tape from pitot, both static ports, and fuel vent opening
8. Verify fabric drain holes are open and free of obstruction. Drain hole are located where water may collect in the wings, ailerons, fuselage, horizontal stabilizers, elevators, rudder, and auxiliary fins (if equipped).
9. Service lubrication points per airplane maintenance manual if affected by washing (i.e. rudder hinges, elevator hinges, aileron hinges, flap hinges, trim tab hinges, control cable to horn attach points, aileron bellcrank, aileron pushrod ends, flap pushrod ends, and trim tab pulleys).

Bug Removal (Painted Surfaces):

1. Mist isopropyl alcohol dilution on surfaces to be cleaned. Alternately, spray surfaces with Wash Wax ALL.
2. Remove bugs from surface using non-abrasive pad or cotton terry cloth.
3. Wipe residue from surface with clean microfiber cloth.

Products:

**Table I: Recommended Products**

Description	Product	Supplier	Purpose
Liquid Detergent	G10464 Deep Crystal Car Wash (mix 1:100)	Meguiar's	Exterior cleaning
Liquid Detergent	G12664 NXT Generation Car Wash (mix 1:100)	Meguiar's	Exterior cleaning
Liquid Detergent	39000 Car Wash Soap (mix 1:100)	3M	Exterior cleaning
Polish and Sealant	15159 Race Glaze	ChemRite CoPac	Exterior cleaning
Cleaning Solution	Isopropyl alcohol and water (mix 1:1)	Any	Insect residue
Cleaning Solution	Wash Wax ALL	Aero Cosmetics	Insect residue
Non-Abrasives Pad	Aero Scrubber Pad	Aero Cosmetics	Insect residue
Cotton Cloth (clean, lint free)	-	Any	Exterior cleaning and insect residue
Microfiber Cloth (clean, lint free)	-	Any	Exterior cleaning and insect residue