



Keeping Aircraft Clean with AGLaze

KEEPING aircraft clean, especially in a commercial or training environment can be chore, but is essential for airframe and paint longevity, corrosion protection, and the image the operation presents to paying customers. Even private owners who may well enjoy lavishing care on their pride and joy will often struggle to find the time to get all the grime off or do the job quite as well as they might wish to.

An option that is becoming more popular is to entrust this aspect of aircraft care to professional detailers using aviation specific cleaning and paint protection products. Put in the context of overall aircraft ownership expenses, such services can be quite cost effective by not only reducing long term maintenance outlays, but also in the upkeep of an as-new appearance to the aircraft which will enhance value when the time comes for sale or upgrading.

Aircraft Detailing NZ

Aircraft Detailing NZ are just such a company and are the exclusive New Zealand applicators for AGLaze aviation products which are used by numerous airlines, EMS, commercial and private aircraft operators around the world. Company owner Chris Auret explains that AGLaze

Surface Sealant is much more than a traditional 'polish'; "As the AGLaze sealant cures, it bonds to the paint substrate creating an ultra-thin, uniform layer of protection. This smooth finish no longer provides a 'key' for dirt particles to stick to and is much more water repellent, as well as being proven in wind tunnels to offer less drag in the air even on new and unweathered paint finishes. The sealant also contains special compounds to prevent UV damage (and therefore fading) to the treated surface." Chris explains that the sealant which is neither a polish nor a wax, is completely safe on all plastics, rubber, chrome and stainless steel and does not leave behind any white marks or dust. He says "AGLaze also extends paint life and makes it much easier to clean and more resistant to a wide range of pollutants – once the glaze has been applied, insects, bird droppings, and other contaminants can simply be wiped off with a damp cloth."

One customer who is convinced of these claims is the Northern Emergency Services Trust (NEST), based at Whangarei. Dean Voelkerling, NEST Operations Manager, admits that the team there had some initial skepticism based on the product sounding a little too good to be true. He says it turns out that the claims were true and that "the improvement in ease of cleaning the aircraft after AGLaze was applied is outstanding." Dean says he had met Chris about six months prior when he was working on another aircraft at Whangarei and had also seen some of the North Shore Helicopters fleet looking great after Chris had worked on them - so NEST

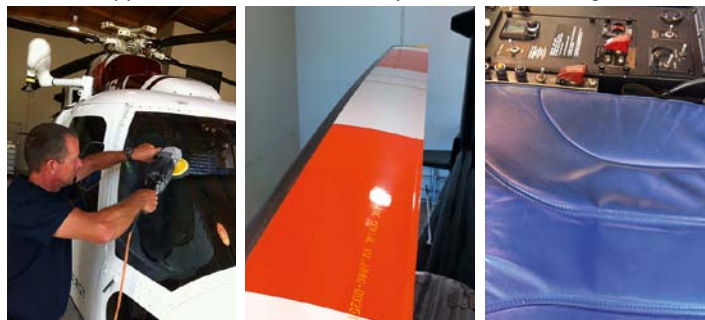
followed suit. Chris and his team including AGLaze importer Tom Mueller spent a day on NEST's HeliMed 1 about four months ago. Dean says they scrubbed it inside and out, rejuvenated the paintwork and then applied AGLaze.

For the NEST team who had previously been using standard automotive cleaning products, the result was a great success. Dean says that "In the past it was a real drama to get grime off the tail boom and tail rotor blades which were always black and sooty. The tail rotor in particular always looked dirty and marked – and it came up looking like brand new. Nothing sticks to AGLaze and it's so much easier to keep clean."

Since then, Chris and Tom have returned to NEST and repeated the process on HeliMed 2. NEST's third helicopter will soon be treated as well.



One of NEST's three Sikorsky S-76 helicopters looking particularly shiny after an application of AGLaze sealant by the Aircraft Detailing NZ team.



L to R: Tom Mueller polishes \$40,000 worth of perspex. Rotor blades looking like new again. Leather seat with centre panel cleaned.

The AGLaze Product Range

More than 20 additional AGLaze products are available, covering the full detailing spectrum from leather, vinyl and fabric cleaners, plexiglass restoration and cleaning, aluminium, chrome and stainless cleaner/polishes, through to a silver ion based, non-allergenic air purifier that eliminates smells and bacteria.

Tom and Chris also cleaned the interior of NEST's HeliMed 1 and 2 aircraft as well as polishing all of the Perspex. Dean was just as impressed with this as with the paintwork, saying that "all the colour came back to the leather which looked clean before but looks new now" and that "pretty much all the scratches are gone from the perspex and we haven't noticed any resulting distortion which can often be the case when screens are polished."

AGLaze DIY

If the thought of using AGLaze products appeals but you still want to apply it yourself then this is an option too. Do-it-yourself AGLaze kits are available, consisting of aviation shampoo, preparation products, sealant, application cloths and instructions. One application will typically last a minimum of 12 months on frequently used aircraft.

For more information

Chris Auret (who has a professional background as an aircraft engineer) and his team at ADNZ offer the full spectrum of exterior and interior aircraft care with AGLaze products in Auckland, North Shore, Ardmore, Hamilton and Napier. Aircraft Detailing NZ are also authorised CorrosionX applicators. Contact Chris on 021 262 2272 or visit www.adnz.co.nz More information on the range of AGLaze aviation products is available from Tom Mueller on 09 438 8800 or visit www.aglaze.co.nz