

PRIORITY:	Normal
DATE:	April 16, 2007
TITLE:	Painting AlphaEclipse Excite, RoadStar, or StreetSmart Sign Cases
SUMMARY:	This document explains why these sign cases cannot be painted and provides alternatives to painting them.

The light gray color used for the Excite, RoadStar, and StreetSmart sign cases was selected for its specific properties. It should not be tampered with or painted over with other colors or shades of paint. Painting the sign cases voids the warranty.

Why sign cases are painted light gray

During the manufacturing process, signs are painted light gray specifically to reduce solar gain to help decrease the overall potential heat load. This keeps the temperature inside the sign cooler. This is critical because solar gain typically contributes more than half of the heat load to the sign's interior operating environment.

Effects of painting sign cases

During the manufacturing process, we use a durable powder coat that is able to withstand a wide range of environmental operating conditions. Consequently, this coating is very difficult to paint over. Painting over this coating may result in the extra coats flaking off, especially if the powder coated surface was not meticulously prepared through both a sanding process and a process of treating it with harsh/corrosive cleansing solvents. When sign cases are painted, especially with darker colors, the properties and benefits from the light gray paint are negated, resulting in a substantial risk of overheating in some operating environments.

Alternatives to painting sign cases

- **Place the sign in another enclosure.** To maintain the optimum operating temperature, the ambient temperature inside this enclosure must be kept under 122°F (50°C). Any enclosure that is added to the sign must be added to the sign substructure. We strongly recommend providing venting to maintain the lowest practical temperature. Refer to your sign installation manual for additional substructure information and information about ventilation requirements. Additionally, remember that drilling holes in any of the sign cases voids the warranty.
- **Skin the sign.** Use a material such as aluminum or another form of durable sheeting metal to stretch around the sign cases, leaving an air gap between the metal sheeting material and the cases. Do not attach directly to the sign case. The ambient temperature outside of the case must be kept under 122°F (50°C).