Cleaning Silicon-Based Fingerprint Sensors



CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Silicon Fingerprint Sensors

Many KSI products feature biometric fingerprint sensors. Over time, sensors can become soiled due to normal use and repeat contact with users' fingers and other sources of contamination. Even if surface dirt is noticeable, functionality of fingerprint capture may not be impacted. However, best practices dictate that, on occasion, users clean the surface for both aesthetic purposes and, in a clinical setting, infection control.

There is a right and wrong way to clean a silicon sensor. Cleaning should not damage the surface or result in discoloration of the finger ring. For normal use, monthly cleaning is recommended:

- Unplug the fingerprint sensor from power source.
- In a clinical setting, wipe the sensor gently with standard, approved hospital wipes; allow the sensor to air dry.
- Alternately, wet one end of a cotton swab (wet, not dripping wet), using a household kitchen or window cleaner, e.g. Formula 409, Fantastic, Windex, or other generic versions of these cleaners.
- Gently rub the sensor surface and finger drive ring with the swab, slowly rotating the swab so that a new, cleaner surface is exposed with each rotation.
- When complete, gently rub the surface again with a dry cotton swab. Use a clean swab each time the sensor is cleaned.



DO NOT...

- Allow cleaner to drip or run down into the electronics around the sensor.
- Use chlorine-based cleaners such as Clorox bleach, non-chlorine bleach, or chlorine-based bathroom or mildew cleaners. Chlorine-based products may discolor or damage sensor components.
- Use solvents, such as acetone, MEK, TCE, paint thinner, or turpentine. Solvents may discolor and damage sensor components.
- Use nylon brushes, scouring pads, or steel wool, which damages the sensor.

GENERAL USE & CARE TIPS

Silicon Fingerprint Sensors



Silicon fingerprint sensors are designed to perform well under harsh conditions, but some precautions should be taken to avoid causing damage.

- The sensor can be damaged by a discharge of static electricity emanating from your body. A plastic conductive fingerprint mask, connected to a ground plane, surrounds the fingerprint sensor. Always touch the conductive plastic mask before touching the sensor in order to safely discharge any static electricity present on skin or clothing.

  A “Ridge-Lock” is sometimes provided as part of this conductive mask to serve both as a finger placement guide and as the first point of contact with the reader. To properly use the Ridge-Lock, slide your finger across the ridge, parallel to the sensor. When the ridge locks in place under your first joint, lower your finger evenly onto the sensor and apply pressure. Using such fingerprint placement will guarantee that static electricity is discharged from your body before touching the sensor directly. This process requires that the reader have a proper connection to earth ground.

- Do not place the fingerprint sensor close to a heat source, such as a radiator or hot plate.
- Do not spill liquids on the sensor, and use only approved cleaners suggested here.
- The sensor should not be exposed to the elements, such as sun, rain, snow or excessive moisture – and is therefore not recommended for outdoor use.
- The sensor should be cleaned on a monthly basis.
- The fingerprint sensor should not be subject to heavy shocks or vibrations.

Contact KSI Tech Support for further information:
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