

Please remember that the success of any tank process depends on the quality of the preliminary work.

TankEx removes every single- and two-component coatings except original BMW paintwork.

**Please read these instructions on paint stripping carefully before you start working.**

Have all equipment and materials ready:

- Safety goggles
- Gloves
- Working clothes like overall / lab coat
- Old rag for wiping
- Suitable screws and plugs for the tank openings
- Sheet of paper
- Sturdy foil
- Adhesive tape
- Additional plastic foil, such as a trash bag (120 l)

- Concrete mixer (if available)
- Sharp material, such as pointed screws or glass splinters
- Bar magnet
- Blankets
- Acetone or brake cleaner
- Empty containers such as small buckets
- Small mirror
- Light (flashlight, etc.)
- Fine sieve or similar device for filtering
- Hair dryer

### Safety instructions for working with TankEx:

- Never work without safety goggles, gloves and protective clothing.



- Wash or wash off with water working clothes, gloves and goggles after use.
- Work in a well-ventilated place or a covered outdoor area.
- Work carefully and observe the safety instructions in chapter 4: First-Aid-Measures of the Material Safety Data Sheet.
- TankEx is a cold paint stripper and may not be heated under no circumstances.

### Safety instructions for working with acetone / brake cleaner:

- Acetone and brake cleaner can form explosive gases – do not smoke during work and do not work near flying sparks.

## 1. Working environment

---

A warm working environment is better than a cold one. Low temperatures prolong the application time (treatment time). The times stated in these instructions refer to a **continuous ambient temperature of at least 20° Celsius**. At lower working temperatures you should expect to double the application times, to be on the safe side. Please ensure that the working place is well ventilated and that no vapours are inhaled.

## 2. Working surface

---

Please protect carefully the working area or surface. TankEx is an organic, alkaline solution that can be very aggressive. Therefore, the working surface should be covered generously, e.g. with a plastic foil.

## 3. Preparation

---

In preparation, everything that can be removed from the tank must be removed. Filters, fuel valves, tank level sensors, fuel caps, etc. could be damaged by TankEx and should therefore be set aside for the duration of the process.

All openings in the tank must be opened and closed several times during the paint stripping process. Therefore, **suitable screws and plugs** should be manufactured / prepared in advance. Ideally, an **old fuel cap** should be used, which can be discarded afterwards. If not, a **sturdy foil** is needed in order to screw on the fuel cap without damage to the cap seal by TankEx.

Wagner TankEx can damage the paint on a painted tank, for this reason you have to proceed extremely carefully. To protect the tank, first wrap it in plastic foil, such as a **trash bag (120 l)**, cut a hole corresponding to the tank opening and tape it to the opening of the tank with **duct tape**. By heating the tape (e.g. with a hair dryer), its adhesion can be increased. Even when taped carefully, it is possible that TankEx can seep through at the taped area. We therefore recommend the following: Place a **sheet of paper** with a hole cut out for the tank opening over the trash bag so that it can soak up any paint remover. We recommend to wrap the tank that way several times.

**In despite of careful work, we cannot guarantee the absence of damages to the outer paintwork. Even a short contact of TankEx and the paintwork can cause discolouration and/or detachment.**

## 4. Preliminary cleaning

---

### a. Tanks with old, flaky coating

Tanks with old, flaky coating, e.g. due to ethanol inside, imperatively must be cleaned thoroughly by mechanical means, to remove scale, flaking rust or rubber-like or gummy deposits. **Acetone or brake cleaner always should be used for cleaning.**

An ideal method is the good old **concrete mixer**. Fill the tank with a few handfuls of **sharp material**, such as **pointed screws** or **glass splinters** (e.g. from an old Sekurit windscreen).

Then place the tank wrapped in **blankets** in the drum of the concrete mixer and fasten securely. Larger tanks can be fastened to the outside of the drum.

Remember that you will have to remove all of this material from the tank after cleaning. You can use a **bar magnet** to collect screws.

However, this may be difficult if the screws are caught behind the splash plates. Glass splinters can be removed by sloshing water around inside the tank and shaking vigorously. But it can be a tedious process to get them all out, since the tank has to be completely dry first.

### **b. Tanks mit new, faulty coating**

If the tank is clean (since then without refuelling) but shows faulty or flaky coating (even with slight rusty spots), this extensive preliminary cleaning is not necessary. But we recommend to rinse it with acetone before starting the process of paint removal.

## **5. Paint stripping**

---

Add undiluted TankEx to the tank. **A dilution deprives TankEx of a large part of its intended effect. A successful result cannot be guaranteed any more.**

**Please make sure that the tank is tight and does not have any holes.**

By swirling TankEx in the tank, all old coatings will be damped. TankEx moistens and penetrates the existing coating. Depending on the thickness of the layer, the tank should be treated that way once or twice a day to ensure a permanent wetting of the coating to be removed.

The coating detaches from the metal surface and dissolves out in parts.

From the detached coating, unwanted, thick lumps can form in the tank. To avoid this, the detached coating parts must be removed from the tank, if necessary, together with the paint remover, in particular to accelerate the moistening and detaching of the old coating in larger tanks. For this, empty the tank by filtering TankEx through a **fine sieve** into an empty **plastic container**. The product then can be used again to continue the procedure of paint stripping. Depending on the design of the tank, the lumps of paint can get caught in the tank. These must be manually fished with a wire and removed.

Please repeat this procedure until the old coating detached and is removed completely. For strongly adhering old coatings, a rough cleaning (rinsing without TankEx) may be necessary between the paint stripping process, as described under point 3a. To minimize acetone consumption, you can also use water in this case.

**Depending on the age and type of coating, a complete removal of the old coating from the metal surface can take up to 4 weeks, or possibly longer.**

### **Our tipp:**

One liter of TankEx does not seem to be sufficient, but it is enough to remove the paintwork of tanks of all sizes. The deciding factor for a successful paint stripping is the swirling and thus the wetting of the old coating with TankEx. This means that in small tanks, the procedure of wetting is usually easier than e.g. for larger tanks with splash plates which also must be wetted with TankEx. Therefore, especially larger tanks should be swivelled in all directions to be sure that the paint remover can do his work.

## 6. Cleaning after paint stripping

---

If the old coating is completely detached, all remaining parts and TankEx must be removed from the tank.

Zum Neutralisieren von TankEx ist abschließend sofort nach der Entleerung immer eine **gründliche Endwäsche mit Aceton** durchzuführen, bis die Oberfläche sauber, trocken und griffig ist. Ist das Aceton nach dem Spülvorgang verfärbt, muss der Tank immer wieder mit frischem Aceton ausgespült werden, bis keine Verfärbungen mehr zu erkennen sind.

Finally, to neutralize TankEx, immediately after emptying always carry out a thorough final rinsing with acetone until the surface is clean, dry and firm. If the acetone is discoloured after rinsing, the tank must be rinsed out with fresh acetone again and again until no more discolouration is detected.

The disposal of TankEx and the detached paintwork is the same as for old paints.

**After cleaning, do not pour any more water into the tank – rinse only with pure acetone.**

## 7. Further treatment

---

For a subsequent further treatment of the tank with an inner coating it must be checked if there is rust on the inner surfaces.

If there is rust, we recommend to remove it with WAGNER Rust Remover and to seal the surfaces with WAGNER Tank Sealing Resin. Information can be found under [www.tanksealing.com](http://www.tanksealing.com).

**Do you still have questions?**

**We will be glad to assist you by phone!**

**Your suggestions or additions to these instructions are always welcome.**

**Wagner Spezialschmierstoffe GmbH & Co. KG**

**Speckbrodi 8**

**D - 86759 Wechingen**

**Tel: +49 (0)9085- 960 110**

**E-Mail: [service@classic-oil.com](mailto:service@classic-oil.com)**