

Re: Cleaning a mirror

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- *From:* Sketcher <sketcher@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 03 Jan 2006 09:32:05 -0700
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On 03 Jan 2006 01:19:52 GMT, Cerdic <blah@xxxxxxx> wrote:

>I borrowed an Odyssey 1 (16", I think) telescope from my school.
>Is there a good way to clean the mirror?

As others have suggested: Don't attempt to clean that mirror!
Reason: The telescope isn't yours. It's very easy, despite having the best of intentions, to damage the mirror and/or its coating(s).
Furthermore, it would be good to know the nature of the coating(s) on the mirror prior to attempting a cleaning. One might assume (possibly incorrectly) that the reflective coating is either itself very hard or coated with a hard overcoating. Even if that were so, it's easy to error when one has little or no experience cleaning first surface telescope mirrors.

I don't know how you determined that the mirror was in need of cleaning, but shining a light onto a Newtonian telescope's primary mirror will make all but the cleanest of mirrors appear to be in need of cleaning.

One should gain experience cleaning telescope optics using one's own telescopes — preferably starting with relatively inexpensive telescopes before considering cleaning someone else's telescope optics. You reacted wisely in seeking advise prior to acting. For this you are commended!

If the mirror(s) of the school's telescope is/are truly in need of cleaning, I would suggest that the school contact an individual with experience cleaning high quality, first surface telescope mirrors. It's just too easy to make a costly mistake.

Sketcher
To sketch is to see.

- *References:*
 - ◆ *[Cleaning a mirror](#)*

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◇ *From:* Cerdic

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