

Glidex®: Application Information

Track
Switch
Agent

WHEN TO APPLY



Apply Glidex track switch agent to the switch plates, throw rods, switch stand and other moveable metal switch components on a routine basis to allow the switch to throw with ease. Depending on the activity of the switch, apply Glidex track switch lubricant bi-weekly, monthly or as needed.

SWITCH PREPARATION



Clean or scrape off any packed up grease, graphite or other material so Glidex track switch agent can make contact with the metal. Once the switch is cleaned, it will not be necessary to clean the switch again unless another material is put on the components. Additionally, our Ice Free Switch® can be used during the winter season without any additional cleaning.

HOW TO APPLY



Once the switch is clean, brush, pour, or spray Glidex track switch agent onto the appropriate components. Spraying is usually the preferred method as it is the easiest and quickest. Put a light even coating on the surfaces to be treated. A typical application will require about 8 to 10 ounces of product. Glidex track switch agent can be applied to a wet switch without impairing product performance.

REAPPLICATION



As mentioned previously, a bi-weekly or monthly application should be sufficient unless your lubricating plan calls for more frequent applications. Glidex track switch agent can also be applied on an as needed basis.

STORAGE AND HANDLING



Glidex track switch agent is shipped in 1-gallon or 5-gallon containers or 55-gallon drums. It is not necessary to store the product inside; however, the container should be capped when not in use. We recommend using the product within one year of purchase.

Companies that use Glidex®:

- AK Steel
- Archer Daniels Midland
- Balfour Beatty
- Bombardier
- Burlington Northern and Santa Fe
- Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway
- CN Railway
- CSX Transportation
- Eastman Chemical
- Eli Lilly
- Fritz Rumer Cooke
- Herzog
- Modesto Empire Traction
- New York City Transit Authority
- Pennsylvania Power and Light
- Port of Portland
- Reliant Energy
- Toronto Transit Commission
- Union Pacific Railroad
- US Army Fort Drum
- Watco Companies
- Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad
- Winchester and Western Railway

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Glidex®: Frequently Asked Questions

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What is Glidex?

Glidex is a synthetic fluid comprised of an iso-alkane and other proprietary ingredients that are very safe for human health and the environment.

Does Glidex wash away?

No, Glidex is extremely water resistant and is not soluble in water.

How much Glidex do you have to use?

We recommend that you apply a dime-size spot in the center of each plate then throw the switch to spread the material.

Is Glidex conductive?

Glidex is non-conductive. It will not act as an insulator and will not support current to carry electricity.

Is Glidex corrosive?

Glidex is completely non-corrosive.

Will Glidex build up on the switch or pack up?

No, Glidex will not harden or pack up like graphite or petroleum greases.

Will Glidex collect dust, dirt or sand?

No, Glidex will not accumulate dust, dirt or sand. It is ideal in abusive locations such as rail yards, steel mills, coal-fired utilities, etc.

Do I need to clean the switch before applying?

We at Midwest recommend cleaning the switch. However, most customers inform us that they generally go right over top of existing materials with no problem.

How do you apply Glidex?

Glidex can be applied by pouring, brushing or spraying as it is very fluid and will spray year-round.

Is there a summer and winter formula?

No, Glidex is formulated the same year-round so it can be applied in all climates...hot, cold, wet or arid conditions.

Is Glidex bio-degradable?

Yes, Glidex will biodegrade and is acceptable for use in California.

Will a bug sprayer or weed sprayer work to apply Glidex?

These types of sprayers may work. However, most have a full cone-type twist nozzle for water-like consistency fluids. This would not be ideal for application. Some of the better sprayers (industrial type) have a fan spray nozzle which works well. We do offer the Switch Treator Model 100, which is designed for use with Glidex. It is a 3.5-gallon

steel tank unit and has an extended wand with a flat fan nozzle tip. Call us for details.

Will Glidex stain hands or work clothes?

No, Glidex is very clean. It is a brownish-red color but will wash off hands with soap and water. Likewise, clothes will not be stained when washed with typical laundry detergents.

What is the shelf life of Glidex?

As a company policy we normally recommend using the product within a year. But, Glidex won't separate and would be fine beyond the one-year recommendation.

How often should Glidex be applied?

Your application frequency will vary on the amount of switch activity. High throw count switches may need reapplied every two weeks whereas most would be fine with a monthly application.

Who uses Glidex?

Glidex is widely used by several Class I Railroads, numerous Short Line Railroads along with Mass Transit Authorities and many industrial facilities that have their own rail service.

Is Glidex diluted before being used?

No dilution required.

Is Glidex an agricultural base or vegetable oil-type material?

No, Glidex is a synthetic fluid.

Will Glidex attract rodents or wildlife?

No, unlike vegetable oils, Glidex will not attract animal life or rodents.

What are some possible uses for Glidex?

Glidex can be used on lift bridges, car couplers, flop gate mechanisms, and any metal to metal surface to lubricate or reduce friction.

What other benefits does Glidex offer?

Glidex reduces torque required to move metal, has an excellent capillary action to get into tight areas and has been documented to reduce switch throw times.

How is Glidex packaged?

Glidex is supplied in 1-gallon plastic jugs (4 per case), 5-gallon plastic buckets, 55-gallon plastic drums, 275-gallon steel-caged totes, and also in Midwest bulk truckloads of 1,000 gallons and up.

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