



Getting Started Guide Cleaning Instructions



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1. General Information


This application note provides instructions on how to clean The Imaging Source's cameras.

Before trying to clean a camera yourself, consider carefully whether cleaning will improve your camera's performance.

Cleaning always carries the risk of introducing more dirt or even damaging parts of the camera, e.g., the sensor, the IR cut filter, etc.



2. Cleaning the Sensor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If possible, avoid cleaning the camera's sensor.• Before you start, check whether the sensor is accessible. The sensor is accessible on the following camera models:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Imaging Source's 38U, 37U, 33U, 32U, 38G, 33G, 47G monochrome cameras• The Imaging Source's color cameras with housing, use an IR cut filter that cannot be removed. That is why only the IR cut filter can be cleaned.
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To clean the sensor if it is accessible:

1. Disconnect the camera from power (and I/O power, if applicable).
2. Get pure alcohol (at least 96%) or isopropyl alcohol of at least analytical grade (pro analysi, p.a.) purity.
 - i. Note: isopropyl alcohol draws moisture from the air, which may result in streaks on the sensor's surface.
3. Get a soft, lint-free cloth that does not cause electrostatic charging during cleaning.
4. Moisten the cloth with the alcohol. Make sure to only use a small quantity so that there is no alcohol dripping from the cloth. Ideally, wrap the cloth around a plastic tool (e.g., a spatula) that has the same width as the sensor. This makes cleaning easier and safer.
5. Wipe once or twice in a straight line across the entire sensor.
6. Let any residual moisture evaporate.
7. Reconnect the camera to power.



3. Cleaning the IR Cut Filter

To clean the IR cut filter:

1. Disconnect the camera from power (and I/O power, if applicable).
2. Hold or mount the camera in horizontal position.
Make sure the lens mount is not pointing up.
3. Blow canned, oil-free air at a 90-degree angle at the center of the IR cut filter.
Important: Do not touch the filter with the tube.
4. Reconnect the camera to power.



4. Cleaning the Camera Housing

To clean a camera with housing:

1. Disconnect the camera from camera power (and I/O power, if applicable).
2. Make sure that the lens mount is covered by a lens or a protective cap.
3. Get a soft, lint-free cloth that does not cause electrostatic charging during cleaning.
4. Dampen the cloth using a mild detergent.
5. Using the dampened cloth, wipe, as applicable, the camera's sides and front.
6. Let any residual moisture evaporate. Never apply compressed air to speed up evaporation.
7. After the moisture has evaporated completely, you may reconnect the camera to power.



Revision History

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Headquarters: The Imaging Source Europe GmbH
Überseetor 18, 28217 Bremen, Germany
Phone: +49 421 33591-0

North and South America: The Imaging Source, LLC
4600 Park Road, Suite 470, Charlotte, NC 28209, USA
Phone: +1 704-370-0110

Asia Pacific: The Imaging Source Asia Co. Ltd.
3F., No. 43-7/8, Zhongxing Road,
New Taipei City, Xizhi District 221012, Taiwan
Phone: +886 2-2792-3153

www.theimagingsource.com

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All weights and dimensions are approximate. Unless otherwise specified, lenses shown in camera product images are not included with the cameras.