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BN 1422

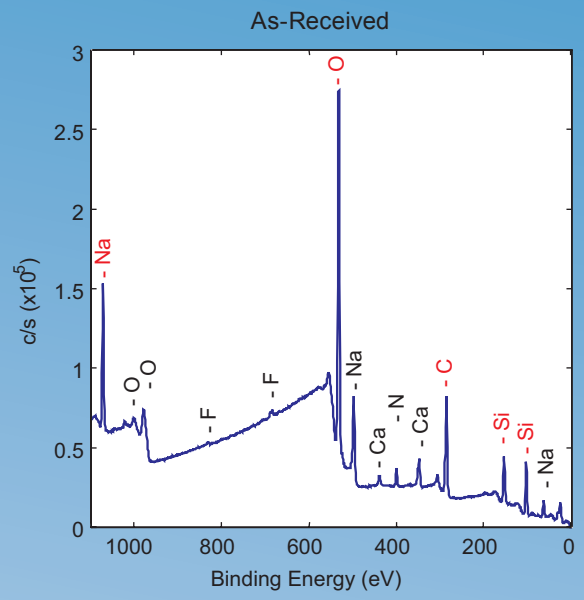
Evaluation of Cleaning Efficacy

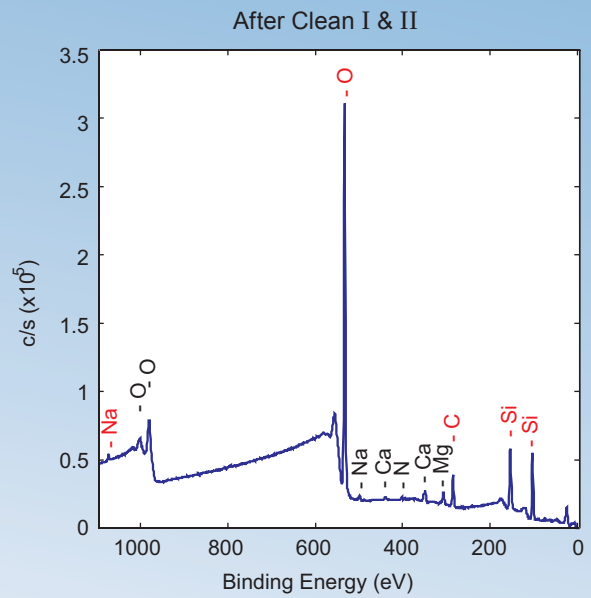
Discussion

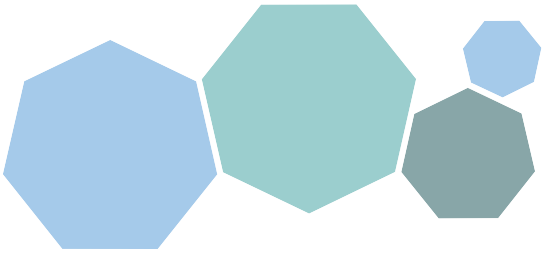
The removal of surface contamination is a common goal of all cleaning processes. Unfortunately all cleaning steps are not equally effective, and some processes can actually leave behind additional contaminants. Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA) is a surface analysis tool that is well qualified to characterize cleaning processes. ESCA's ability to quantify the concentration of all elemental species except hydrogen and helium makes it possible to monitor the efficiency of contamination removal as a function of cleaning processes.

The spectra shown below are from a glass sample before and after several cleaning steps. Peaks for sodium (Na) and carbon (C) decrease in intensity after cleaning, while peaks from the glass substrate (e.g. silicon and oxygen) increase in relative intensity as the surface gets cleaner. The table shows the concentration of the elements before and after cleaning. The first step reduces the level of Na, but increases the C concentration. The subsequent process step removes a majority of the C, leaving a cleaner glass surface.

	Atomic Concentrations (%)							
	Si	O	Na	C	N	Ca	Mg	F
As-Received	13	42	10	29	2.9	1.7	0.6	0.7
Clean I	19	44	0.2	32	3.7	0.5	0.5	0
Clean II	24	62	0.6	12	0.6	1.1	0.6	0







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