

Re: Recommendations for Care of Coated Metal

These recommendations cover procedures for cleaning and maintenance of painted aluminium extrusions and curtain wall panels. The procedures are intended for use with powder coated, architectural and aluminium extrusions such as window frames, door frames, railings, and trim as well as curtain wall panels, column covers, spandrels, mullions, louvres, vertical trim, etc.

These recommendations are intended to assist architects, contractors, owners and building managers who are concerned with the care and maintenance of painted, architectural aluminium.

Storage & Installation

- During storage, the coated aluminium should be protected from the influence of weather elements and therefore stored in shelters storage, out of direct sunlight, rain, and other weather elements.
- On the construction site and during construction, the coated aluminium should be protected from potential damage such as abrasion that can be caused by, but not limited to construction materials, such as paint, cement, and cleaning chemicals etc.
- If such materials have been in contact with the coated surface, they should be cleaned immediately before they have dried. Failure to remove these materials at an early stage will require the use of aggressive cleaning materials and techniques that may result in damage to the coated surface.

Cleaning

- It is strongly recommended to first test a small, inconspicuous test area to ensure that no colour change or damage arises.
- Always remove any kind of dirt as soon as possible.
- If, for acceptance of construction work, any loose deposits remain, despite cleaning during installation, they must be removed with a wet sponge (water).
- If it is not possible to clean the surface as described previously, use a soft brush or (non-abrasive) cloth and a neutral mild household or neutral car wash detergent, following the supplier's instructions.
- After cleaning, rinse the surface thoroughly with fresh water.
- Do not use strong solvents alkaline or acid cleaners.

- Do not use steel wool, scrapers, sandpaper, scouring liquids or powders as they will permanently scratch the coated surface.
- The use of hard water for cleaning is not recommended due to its mineral content, as it can cause staining of the coating and may lead to long term failures.
- Do not clean the surface if it is hot due to being in direct sunlight.

Cleaning Metallic Coatings

Metallic coating contains mica or metallic flakes. Special care must be taken when cleaning this kind of special finish.

- Routine cleaning, periodic washing with mild detergent is recommended.
- Any cleaning or repair by rubbing or polishing must be avoided, as it may result in discolouration, colour change and irreversible damage to the coating.

Cleaning a Matt Finish Coating

- Cleaning with a mild detergent is recommended.
- If repair or restoration is required, rubbing or polishing should be avoided since the gloss level of the coating could be affected.

General Cleaning Intervals

As a general rule, the coated surface should be cleaned at least once a year in a normal environment. However, in areas where pollutants are more prevalent, especially in coastal or industrial areas, a more frequent cleaning programme should be carried out.

- Normal environment - Clean every 12 months
- Marine and/or industrial environment - Clean every 3 months
- Swimming & leisure pools - Clean every 3 months

Depending on the damage, different kinds of repair may be necessary. The coating suppliers must be contacted to find the best solution.

Yours sincerely,

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