



recommendations for
care of coated aluminium



architectural coatings



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recommendations for the
care of coated aluminium

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. The information contains suggested methods as an aid in establishing safe, sound cleaning and maintenance procedures.

Technical Information Sheet 1

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Care of coated aluminium not only refers to cleaning and maintenance of the surface but also covers all other operations that may have detrimental effects on the surface, for instance transport, packaging, installation and so on.

Care should start immediately. Organic coating can suffer mechanical damage, like scratches on the surface, especially on some colours.

Recommendations will be given for the following steps:

1. Handling and transportation
2. Installation
3. Cleaning
4. Special finish
5. Cleaning frequency
6. Damage repair
7. Other recommendations

1. Handling and Transport

- a. The coated aluminium should be protected during handling to avoid mechanical damage.
- b. Suitable protective materials should be used for packaging and transportation (to avoid water spots caused by the greenhouse effect).
- c. Packaging should be securely fixed.

2. Installation

- d. During storage, the coated aluminium should be protected from the influence of weather elements and therefore stored out of direct sunlight, rain and other weather elements (sheltered storage).
- e. On the construction site and during construction, the coated aluminium should be protected from damage caused by abrasion and construction materials, such as paint, mortar, cleaning chemicals etc.
- f. 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 this early stage will require the use of aggressive cleaning materials and techniques that may result in damage to the coated surface.

3. Cleaning

- g. It is strongly recommended to first test a small, inconspicuous test area to ensure that no colour change or damage arises.
- h. Always remove any kind of dirt as soon as possible.
- i. If, for acceptance of construction work, any loose deposits still remain

despite cleaning during installation, they must be removed with a wet sponge (water).

- j. If it is not possible to clean the surface as described above, use a soft brush or (non-abrasive) cloth and a neutral mild household or neutral car wash detergent, following the supplier's instructions.
- k. After cleaning, rinse the surface thoroughly with fresh water.
- l. Do not use steel wool, scrapers, sandpaper, scouring liquids or powders as they will permanently scratch the coated surface.
- m. Do not use strong solvents alkaline or acid cleaners.
- n. 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.
- o. Do not clean the surface if it is hot due to being in direct sunlight.

4. Cleaning of Special Finishes

- p. Metallic coatings contain mica or metallic flakes. Special care must be taken when cleaning this kind of special finish. For 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.
- q. Matt finishes: for cleaning, washing 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.

5. Cleaning Frequency

- r. 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

6. Damage Repair

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

7. Other Recommendations

- t. Cleaning should be carried out by specialised cleaning companies.



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