



Date:

Customer Name:

Job Name:

Anodized Coating Cleaning Procedures and Maintenance

This is a brief summary of the best way to clean your anodized aluminum. Always refer to your cleaning product's MSDS sheet before using. Use solvents with care as they may stain the finish. Regardless of the technique, be sure to try a test area first. Always try to test a small area first to prevent a widespread problem. Always rinse thoroughly.

As with any finished building material, anodized aluminum requires reasonable care prior to and during installation and periodic cleaning and maintenance after installation. Although anodized aluminum possesses exceptional resistance to corrosion, discoloration and wear, its natural beauty can be marred by harsh chemicals, rough conditions or neglect. Such conditions usually affect only the surface finish and do not reduce the service life of the aluminum. However, the marks resulting from such mistreatment may be permanent. For example, mortar, cement and other alkaline materials will quickly corrode anodic coatings if allowed to dry on the metal surface. Construction soils, including concrete or mortar, etc., should be removed as soon as possible. The exact procedure for cleaning will vary depending on the nature and degree of soil. When selecting a method of cleaning and type of cleaner, consideration should be given to all other materials that may be adversely affected by the wash of the cleaning process. Try to restrict cleaning to mild weather. Cleaning should be done on the shaded side of the building or ideally on a mild, cloudy day.

Removal of Light Surface Soil on Anodic Coatings

The simplest procedure is to flush the surface with water using moderate pressure to dislodge the soil. If soil is still adhering after drying, then a mild detergent will be necessary.

When mild detergent or mild soap is necessary for removal of soil, it should be used with brushing or sponging. The washing should be done with uniform pressure, cleaning first with a horizontal motion and then with a vertical motion. Apply cleaners only to an area that can be conveniently cleaned without changing position. The surface must be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. It may be necessary to sponge the surface while rinsing, particularly if cleaner is permitted to dry on the surface. The rinsed surface is permitted to air dry or is wiped dry with a chamois, squeegee or lint-free cloth.

Run-down of cleaner (from any operation) to the lower portions of the building should be minimized and these areas should be rinsed as soon as and as long as necessary to lessen streaking, etc., from unavoidable rundown, lower areas should be kept wet or flooded with water. Do not allow cleaning chemicals to collect on surfaces or to "puddle" on horizontal surfaces, crevices, etc. These should be flushed with water and dried. Always clean coated surfaces down from top to bottom and follow with a thorough rinsing with clean water. (With one-story or low elevation buildings, it is recommended to clean from bottom up and rinse from top down.)

Mild soaps or detergents ruled safe for bare hands should be safe for coated aluminum. Stronger detergents should be carefully spot tested and may necessitate rubber gloves, long handled brushes, etc. With any soap or detergent, the finish should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water and dried. Some mild cleaning solutions, comprised of selected wetting agents in water solution, are available for automatic-building-washing machines. These machines would have built-in brush agitation, squeegee, filtration and re-circulation; in some, a freshwater connection may be provided.

CLEANING FREQUENCY:

Customer shall clean the product according to the following frequency:

1. Six (6) times per year for all Products located within one (1) mile of the seashore
 - a. The cleaning cycle shall commence within two (2) months of installation
 - b. Cleaning shall be conducted in intervals not to exceed two (2) months
 - c. Customer shall maintain fully documented records throughout the Warranty term
2. Four (4) times per year for all Products located more than one (1) mile of the seashore
 - a. The cleaning cycle shall commence within two (2) months of installation
 - b. Cleaning shall be conducted in intervals not to exceed two (2) months
 - c. Customer shall maintain fully documented records throughout the Warranty term

Maintenance and cleaning must be documented in accordance with warranty specifications. In the event of coating failure, customer shall furnish proof of proper maintenance.

CLEANING PRECAUTIONS:

Never use aggressive alkaline or acid cleaners on aluminum finishes. Do not use cleaners containing trisodium phosphate, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, fluorides, or similar compounds on anodized aluminum surfaces. Strong solvents or abrasive cleaners can cause damage to painted surfaces. Always follow the cleaner manufacturer's recommendations as to the proper cleaner and concentration. Test-clean a small area first. Different cleaners should not be mixed.

Do not use excessive abrasive rubbing to remove stubborn stains. Such procedures can produce an undesirable appearance or adversely affect the finish.

It is preferable to clean the metal when shaded. Do not attempt to clean hot, sun-heated surfaces since possible chemical reactions on hot metal surfaces will be highly accelerated and non-uniform.

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