

Care and Maintenance Guide

Anodised Joinery

Anodised Aluminium Joinery is not only attractive, but also offers a durable and tough wearing finish. Some deterioration of the anodic oxide coating occurs but mainly as a result of grime deposition and subsequent attack by moisture, particularly when it is contaminated with sulphur compounds. Regular cleaning is essential if the finish of anodised aluminium is to be preserved over a long period.

Cleaning

The anodised aluminium should be washed down with warm water and a suitable wetting agent or mild soap solution, in a similar manner to washing a car. Fine brushes may be used to loosen attached dirt/grime - the use of anything stiffer or more abrasive may result in damage to the surface. Acid or alkali cleaners should not be used, as these will damage anodic films and may discolour coloured joinery. Where greasy deposits or hard to remove grime is present, cleaning of the anodising may be by means of a soft cloth dipped in white spirit, turpentine, kerosene, or a liquid scourer (for example "Jiff"® - a Lever Rexona household product available from supermarkets) followed by wiping with a dry rag. Make sure none of these solvents come into contact with other parts of the window.

Note: All Solvents must be kept from contact with the vinyl glazing gasket materials, as most solvents damage glazing gaskets (the "rubber" seal around the glass).

It is essential to rinse thoroughly after cleaning, with copious applications of clean water particularly where crevices are present, and then dry the glass to avoid any marks developing. Regular washing of your anodised joinery will ensure a long lasting product. In general the following programme is recommended:

Rural: Every six months

Urban: Every three months

Industrial And Marine Environments: (within 1 km of the sea):

Six monthly warm water detergent wash, as well as monthly cold water washing.

For additional protection, especially in harsh environments, waxing with a good quality car wax after washing will assist in lifting and maintaining the appearance of your anodised joinery.

What To Do About Paint Splashes

Working around your house, painting overhead roof soffits and the like, may cause paint splashes to mar the appearance of your windows. The best thing to do is to act quickly and remove such splashes with a soft cloth moistened with water. Using water-based paints allows you to clean up with water - using solvents may put your joinery at risk.

If you need further assistance, or are unsure about any aspect of the care and maintenance of your anodised aluminium joinery, please contact your local aluminium window and door fabricator.



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ALUMINIUM**
PREMIUM SYSTEMS
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

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Powder Coated Joinery

Powdercoated Aluminium Windows - A Good Choice! Thank you for choosing to purchase aluminium windows. Your windows are factory pre-finished in long-lasting electrostatically applied powdercoating. A combination of painstaking preparation, careful workmanship, and the latest technology have come together to bring you your powdercoated windows and doors, in the decorator colours of your choice. Powdercoating is one of the most durable colour coatings available and with very little effort on your part, it will provide you with many years of excellent service. We want you to get the full long-term benefit of choosing low maintenance powdercoated windows. So we have prepared this information pack for you that details the few simple things you need to do to get maximum satisfaction from your investment.

Regular washing is the key to looking smart

To maintain the good looks of your powdercoated aluminium windows, each window and door unit needs regular washing all over - not just the parts that are sheltered from the rain. In fact, looking after your windows is very much like looking after a new car - a regular wash keeps your investment in smart condition.

Unless you are close to the seaside or are in a similar harsh environment, such as near an industrial area, washing down your windows about every three months should be sufficient. Simply use a good quality, soft bristled, window washing brush as sold by general hardware stores. Some brushes have in-built detergent dispensers and connect directly to the garden tap. These brushes make it really easy to rinse off the detergent bubbles - which is a very important part of the care process.

If you choose to wash the windows by hand in the traditional way, simply use a diluted solution of mild liquid detergent such as Sunlight® Liquid Dishwash (manufactured by Lever Rexona and available in your supermarket) mixed the same way you would use to wash your dishes. Be sure to rinse off the window with a gentle spray from the garden hose, and dry the glass to avoid any marks developing.

What To Do About Paint Splashes

Working around your house, painting overhead roof soffits and the like, may cause paint splashes to mar the appearance of your windows. The best thing to do is to act quickly and remove such splashes with a cloth soaked with water. We recommend the use of water-based paints to enable easy clean up. Using any solvents on your joinery puts it at risk. Always immediately rinse off the area cleaned using clean water.

WARNING: Never use any other kind of solvent cleaner as it could damage the powdercoating or cause it to deteriorate and age rapidly. Common solvents such as petrol, acetates, dulon thinners and Methyl Ethyl Detone (MEK) are very damaging to powdercoat and must never come into contact with it. Highly acidic, alkaline, common household solvent or alcohol-based cleaners are not recommended either. These comments also apply equally to the other components that make up the window or door - we recommend you do not use any solvents other than water.

Refurbishing Powdercoated Products

All surfaces eventually degrade on prolonged exposure to the elements. Change of colour, loss of gloss and some chalking may eventuate after time. A number of restoration techniques are possible. These will depend on the particular circumstances and the life expectancy of the refurbishment. The type of refurbishment chosen may vary between domestic and commercial applications.

For Domestic Refurbishment, we recommend polishing with a high quality automotive cream polish in accordance with the polish manufacturer's instructions. This will both clean and protect the surface. Avoid polishes which also contain cutting compounds, unless the surface is extremely weathered. For badly scratched surfaces use a dab stick or aerosol can with colour matched paint. These are available from the company that supplied your aluminium windows and doors. They will be able to provide the appropriate colour match to your original order.

