

Maintenance Instructions

Architectural Metalwork systems and products supplied by Spectrum must be maintained in accordance with the following procedures as detailed below. The products we supply are typically manufactured from three material types - Powder Coated Aluminium, Glass and Stainless Steel.

1. Maintenance of Powder Coated Aluminium

Cleaning is necessary if the fine finish of powder coated aluminium is to be preserved. Deterioration of the coating occurs mainly as a result of grime deposition and attack by contaminated moisture which in a coastal environment contains salt and sulphur compounds.

Deposited grime and contamination absorbs moisture like a sponge and holds it against the powdercoated and anodized surfaces. This permits the attack to proceed thereby damaging the coating which cannot be restored

Frequency of Cleaning

Cleaning required is dependent on the severity of the environment.

Rural / Suburban Environments - The maximum period between cleaning should never be more than six (6) months.

Coastal / Industrial Environments - More frequent cleaning is necessary and the maximum period between cleaning should never be more than three (3) months.

Under the worst conditions involving heavy grime deposition and atmospheric pollution (e.g. sulphur compounds or salts) more frequent cleaning is advisable e.g. monthly if deterioration of the coating is to be prevented.

Procedure

The cleaning of powder coated and anodised material should be performed using hand cleaning and rinsing techniques. The powder coated surface must be regularly maintained in accordance with the powder manufacturer's data sheets and in areas where there is a high concentration of salt or atmosphere pollutants then a systematic maintenance program meeting AMA 610.1 1979 must be implemented. At the very minimum cleaning should be done at three to six month intervals (depending on location i.e. Seaside or inland, rural or industrial etc.) and is often part of the regular cleaning program associated with items such as the glazing or balustrades of the property.

The following procedure should be adopted.

- Remove dust with a wet sponge rather than risk micro scratching the surface by dry dusting
- Most marks or surface contaminants can be removed by the use of a warm, mild detergent or mineral turpentine/ white spirit.
- Always rinse afterwards with fresh water so that the contact time of the cleaning solution is kept to a minimum. Hosing must be avoided under all circumstances.
- Always rinse with a chamois, or alternatively, a soft cloth.

Do not under any circumstances use an abrasive type cleaning agent as this will severely damage the surface of the material. Thoroughly rinse off any detergent with clean water.

The cleaning of the product should be performed at a time that will allow the aluminium to dry quickly, preferably early in the morning.

NOTE: All coated aluminium surfaces should avoid contact with acids, alkalies, mortar based products and solvents.

2. Maintenance of Glass

All glass surfaces should be kept clean by prompt removal of dirt. Clean water should be used and in some instances the addition of a small amount of mild detergent would be of some benefit. Thoroughly wash off any detergent residue with clean water. Do not under any circumstances use a razor blade or any form of abrasive cleaner as this may cause damage to the glass. Lightly sponge off any stubborn dirt being careful not to scratch the glass. Frequency of cleaning should be similar to that specified for powder coated surfaces (see above)

3. Maintenance of Stainless Steel

Stainless Steel need to be cleaned for aesthetic considerations and to preserve corrosion resistance. Stainless steel is protected from corrosion by a thin layer of chromium oxide.

Oxygen from the atmosphere combines with the chromium in the stainless steel to form this passive chromium oxide film that protects from further corrosion. Any contamination of the surface by dirt, or other material hinders this passivation process and traps corrosive agents, reducing corrosion protection. Thus some form of routine cleaning is necessary to preserve the appearance and integrity of the surface. Stainless steels are easily cleaned by many different methods. They actually thrive with frequent cleaning and, unlike some other materials, it is impossible to 'wear out' stainless steel by excessive cleaning. Stainless Steel performs best when clean - cleanliness is essential for maximum resistance to corrosion.

Frequency of cleaning

Cleaning required is dependent on the severity of the environment.

Rural / Suburban Environments -The maximum period between cleaning should never be more than six (6) months.

Coastal / Industrial Environments - More frequent cleaning is necessary and the maximum period between cleaning should never be more than three (3) months. To preserve the appearance of the stainless steel balustrades.

Under the worst conditions involving heavy grime deposition and atmospheric pollution (e.g. sulphur compounds or salts) more frequent cleaning is advisable e.g. monthly if deterioration of the coating is to be prevented.

Procedure

Spectrum Aluminium recommend the use of CYNDAN* stainless steel Sentry to protect stainless steel balustrades. This product should be used once every three (3) months if in a coastal / industrial environment.

Stainless steel balustrades exposed to the external environment may require more frequent cleaning if any deterioration of the balustrade is detected. To remove any tea staining from the stainless steel portions of the balustrade, CYNDAN* rejuvenating paste should be used in conjunction with CYNDAN* stainless steel sentry.

At a minimum, all exposed stainless steel surfaces should be wiped over with a clean cloth and warm water with a mild detergent on a frequent and routine basis.

For more stubborn dirt or stains use mild, non-scratching abrasion powders such as typical household cleaners. These can be used with warm water, bristle brushes, sponges or clean cloths. For more aggressive cleaning a small amount of vinegar can be added to the powder. Carbon steel brushes and steel wool should be avoided as they may leave particles embedded in the surface, which can lead to rusting.

The maximum recommendation for routine cleaning is once a month and more often in areas subject to heavy soiling or frequent use.

Because of its reputation for durability Stainless Steel is sometimes assumed to be indestructible, and therefore subjected to misuse or even abuse. Care should be taken to avoid such "abnormal" use.

- DO Routine simple gentle cleaning
- DO Use cleaners showing "Suitable for Stainless Steel"
- DO Employ repeated Routine cleaning rather than an aggressive single cleaning
- DO NOT Use coarse abrasive powders
- DO NOT Use metallic scourers
- DO NOT Use silver cleaner