

Care and Maintenance - Powder Coated & Anodised Aluminium

Powder Coated Aluminium

Many of Juralco's aluminium products are used in outdoor settings and powder coating is utilised to protect them from the environment. It is one of the most durable colour coating products existing, which also greatly enhances the look of finished products. With its low maintenance qualities, powder-coated aluminium can retain its beauty and resilience with very little effort.

Deterioration of the powder coated surface can develop from a build up of dirt, grime or other atmospheric pollution, airborne salt residue or the effects of UV light.

Cleaning Powder Coated Aluminium - What to use?

If the surface has been regularly maintained (as per installers instructions), then powder coated aluminium can be cleaned with a mild household detergent (such as liquid dishwashing detergent), mixed with warm water.

Begin by wiping any loose surface grime with a soft wet sponge. Then using a soft non-abrasive brush and the soapy water mix, wash down the powder-coated surfaces. Window washing brushes with built in detergent dispensers are ideal for this, as they connect to garden hoses and easily dispense a mild soapy mixture.

The final vital step is ensure that the powder-coated aluminium is thoroughly rinsed with water after cleaning, especially in any crevices and cracks, ensuring that all residues are completely removed.

What NOT to use?

Do NOT remove grime with **any solvents**. Damage from solvents may not be immediately noticeable and can take up to 12 months to develop, so if accidental contact with solvents takes place the following products may be safely used for removal:

Methylated Spirits, Ethyl Alcohol, Isopropanol with preference given to mild detergent in warm water.

How often?

Maintenance of powder coated aluminium products depends on where it has been installed and how harsh the surrounding environment is. Generally maintenance should take place every six months, or between one and three months in areas where pollutants are more common – such as sea-spray, geothermal activity etc.

Repairs for scratched or worn surfaces.

As an accredited provider of Dulux powder coating, Juralco has access to Dulux colour repair kits, which are available in all standard colour card colours.

For scuffed or scratched surfaces, repairs can be easily done with a spray can containing the matching powder coat colour. Dabsticks are available in most colours for small scratches or chips. For worn or weathered areas Dulux recommend their Gloss up cream, which has been especially designed for gloss restoration. NOTE: Only works on satin finishes not on matt finishes.

Care and Maintenance of Powder Coated products; Window Association of New Zealand.
www.wanz.org.nz/powdercoating-care

Use and Care Brochure; Dulux Powder Coating
http://www.duluxpowdercoatings.co.nz/use_care_files/Use&CareBroc.pdf

Anodised Aluminium

Anodising aluminium not only increases the beauty of the finished product, but also its defence and resistance to damage. With a long history of durability and resilience, anodised aluminium can look as good as the day it was installed, providing it is properly maintained.

Degradation of the aluminium's anodised coating usually occurs because of a build up of dirt and grunge. The grime holds contaminated moisture, which then attacks the anodised surface, damaging the coating.

Cleaning anodised Aluminium - What to use?

Before deciding on the best cleaning method to use, the following questions need to be answered; when it was last cleaned and what is the condition of the surface?

If the surface has regularly maintained (as per warranty instructions), then simply wash the anodised aluminium with warm water that contains either a mild soap solution or a suitable wetting agent. Hand rubbing is often used for smaller jobs and areas, whereas tools such as fibre brushes can provide practical help on larger cleaning jobs.

For anodised surfaces that have more accumulated more grime residue, the use of a mild abrasive, such as water with a pumice powder may be necessary. If residue includes greasy deposits, the surface may need to be cleaned with a soft cloth dipped in white spirits.

With all of these cleaning scenarios, it is vital that the anodised aluminium is thoroughly rinsed with water after cleaning, especially in any crevices and cracks, ensuring that all residues are completely removed.

What NOT to use?

Do NOT remove grime with any highly abrasive products such as sandpaper, steel wool or emery paper.

Do NOT use any acid or alkaline cleaners, which can damage the anodised coating.

Do NOT use emulsion cleaners or proprietary chemical agents, as they may also damage the anodised coating, without consultation with a company specialising in the cleaning of anodised aluminium.

How often?

Cleaning anodised aluminium products depends on where it has been used and the environment that it is exposed to. However, cleaning maintenance will usually range from monthly to six monthly periods.

Anodising Care and Maintenance; Window Association of New Zealand. www.wanz.org.nz/anodising-care-and-maintenance