

Cleaning Procedure for Powder Coated and Anodised Aluminium Finishes

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1. Cleaning Procedures

These cleaning procedures are intended to add to the longevity of the surface finishing of Sheerline's and Wispeco's Architectural Aluminium Systems.

Cleaning procedures are divided into the type of surface finish being cleaned. Make sure to correctly identify the aluminium finish to be cleaned when selecting an appropriate cleaning method. Confirm this with your fabricator/installer or the architect's specifications if in doubt.

Anodised Aluminium

- Never use aggressive alkaline or acid cleaners on aluminium finishes. It is important not to use cleaning products containing trisodium phosphate, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, flourides, or similar compounds on anodised aluminium surfaces. Always follow the recommendations of the product manufacturer as to the proper cleaning product and concentration. Test clean a small area first. Different cleaning products should not be mixed.
- 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 cleaning non-uniformity can occur. Surfaces cleaned under these adverse conditions can become streaked or stained. Also avoid cleaning during freezing temperatures.
- Apply the cleaning solution only to an area that can be conveniently cleaned without changing position. Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean water before applying cleaner. Minimize cleaner rundown over the lower portions of the building and rinse such areas as soon and as long as practical.
- Cleaners containing strong organic solvents will have a damaging effect on organic overlay coatings, but not on anodised aluminium. The possibility of solvents extracting stain-producing chemicals from sealants and affecting the function of the sealants, however, must be considered. Test a small area first.
- Strong cleaners should not be used on windows and other building accessories where it is possible for the cleaning product to come in contact with the aluminium. Solutions of water and mild detergents should be used on windows. .

Powder Coated Aluminium:

- Over cleaning or excessive rubbing must be avoided.
- Strong solvents or strong cleaning concentrations can cause damage to powder coated surfaces.
- Abrasive materials such as steel wool, abrasive brushes, etc., can damage the powder coated finish. Make use of soft clothes or sponges, ensuring that they are clean from dirt and grit as this will scratch the surface.
- Avoid drips and splashes. Remove run downs as quickly as possible.
- Avoid temperature extremes. Heat accelerates chemical reactions and may evaporate water from solution. Extremely low temperatures may give poor cleaning effects. Cleaning under adverse conditions may result in streaking or staining. Ideally, cleaning should be done in shade at moderate temperature ideally on a mild, cloudy day.
- Do not substitute a heavy duty cleaner for frequently used mild cleaner.

- Never use paint removers or any type of mortar or cement remover. Do not use cleaning products containing trisodium phosphate or any other substances that are highly alkaline or highly acidic in nature. Surfaces should be cleaned with mild soapy water. Always do a test on a small surface first.
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for mixing and diluting cleaning products.
- Never mix different cleaning products.
- Ensure that sheltered areas are thoroughly rinsed.

Note:

- *If an aggressive cleaner is required for another component of the building, extreme care must be taken to prevent this substance from coming into contact with the aluminium finish.*
- *Construction soils, including concrete, cement or mortar should be removed as soon as possible. If allowed to dry on aluminium surfaces, irreparable damage will occur.*
- *Should a surface be heavily soiled, please consult with ANSO Aluminium Port Elizabeth (Pty) Ltd before commencing with cleaning.*

1. Cleaning Intervals

When determining cleaning intervals, the local atmospheric conditions as well as the position that the product is installed in the building need to be taken into consideration, however a maximum period of 3 months should not lapse between cleaning intervals.

Cleaning will be more frequently required in areas within close proximity (3000m) to the sea (salt water atmospheres), in areas with low rain fall or in heavily industrialized areas. Special attention needs to be given to sheltered areas that become soiled due to lack of rain washing. A general guide line is that when the glass appears soiled, the aluminium framing needs to be cleaned.

Should a claim arise, a register of cleaning intervals may be required to qualify the claim.

DISCLAIMER

The products must be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Where Phicor products are incorporated into another entity's product or system or used for any purpose other than the intended use, or, where there has been clear abuse of the product or where natural disasters or unusual external environmental factors have resulted in damage, or, where the product has been altered in any way without Phicor's knowledge, Phicor cannot be held liable for any defect.