

Maintenance of Powder Coated Aluminum Articles

Why is cleaning needed?

To retain the aesthetic qualities and ensure a long coating life, powder coated aluminum articles have to be cleaned on a regular basis.

How often is cleaning needed?

The British Standard for Powder Coating on Aluminum for external use, BS 6496: 1984 (1991) states that six months is the longest recommended time between building clean downs.

How does the location of a building affect cleaning needs?

Areas of high industrial pollution, or marine or swimming pool environments (aggressive environments) require cleaning frequencies and other coating/fabrication parameters be considered on an individual project basis. This would be at worst monthly clean downs.

How is the guarantee affected?

To retain a guarantee on the coated metal it is a mandatory requirement to have logged proof of cleaning records retained by the building occupier. This is to be held for the life time of the guarantee, normally 15 to 30 years, except in aggressive environments where each building is given an individual time span for the powder coating guarantee.

What is the building cleaned with?

To clean the building, mild detergent dissolved in warm water is to be used. Pure water cleaning systems that use no detergent are the best, as there are no residues left on the metalwork. Approved products to dilute are:

Ajax Cream
Liquid Gumption
Flash
Ajax Liquid

What must not be used to clean the building?

Abrasive cleaners, strongly acidic or alkaline cleaners or cleaning products containing solvents (e.g. bleach, washing soda, caustic soda). Hydrochloric acid brick wash or similar must not be used on or near the coated articles.

Use of these cleaning agents will negate the guarantee for the coating, and will reduce its lifespan.

What are the Health and Safety and Environmental considerations of cleaning?

An assessment of the cleaning product data sheet will be required to ensure safe working practice is observed by the cleaning contractor. Ensure that splashing and run-off rinse is not going to be a problem for your Employees.

Contact your local environment Agency about information concerning the run off rinse waters as pollution of surface water drains and land by the cleaning product may lead to prosecution. Ideally the cleaning contractor should remove all rinse waters off site for controlled/hazardous waste legal traceable disposal.