

RECOMMENDED STANDARD CLEANING PROCEDURES FOR ANODIZED ALUMINUM

1. Cleaning procedures for aluminum should be initiated as soon as practical after completion of installation to remove construction soils and accumulated environmental soil and discolorations.
2. Cleaning work should start at the top of the structure and proceed to the lowest level in a continuous drop. Using a forceful water spray, an area the width of their stage or scaffolding should be rinsed as cleaning proceeds from the top down.
3. For light soils, the simplest procedure is to flush the surface with water using moderate pressure. If soil is still present after air drying the surface, scrubbing with a brush or sponge and concurrent spraying with water should be tried. If soils still adhere, then a mild detergent cleaner should be used with brushing or sponging. Washing should be done with uniform pressure, first horizontally then vertically. Following the washing the surfaces must be thoroughly rinsed by spraying with clean water.
4. If it is necessary to remove oil, wax, polish, or other similar materials, MEK or an equivalent solvent is recommended for clean up. Extreme care must be exercised when solvents of this type are used since they may damage organic sealants, gaskets and finishes. These solvents should never be used on anodic finishes protected by clear organic coatings unless the organic coating has deteriorated and should be removed.
5. Removing heavy surface soils may require the use of an abrasive-cleaning pad. In this procedure the pad is thoroughly soaked with clean water or a mild detergent cleaner and the metal surface is hand scrubbed with uniform pressure. Scrubbing action should be in the direction of the metal grain. Scrubbing with a nylon cleaning pad impregnated with a surface protectant material is also recommended for removing stubborn soils and stains. After scrubbing, the surface should be rinsed thoroughly with clean water to remove all residue.
6. In some circumstances it may be desirable to wipe the surface with a solvent. The surface is then permitted to air dry or is wiped dry with a chamois, squeegee or lint-free cloth.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Aggressive alkaline or acid cleaners must never be used.

Cleaning hot, sun-heated surfaces should be avoided since possible chemical reaction will be highly accelerated and cleaning non-uniformity could occur.

Strong organic solvents, while not affecting anodized aluminum, may extract stain producing chemicals from sealants and may affect the function of the sealants.

Strong cleaners should not be used on window glass and other components where it is possible for the cleaner to come in contact with the aluminum.

Excessive abrasive rubbing should not be used since it could damage the finish.

Based on Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association published literature, care of Anodized Aluminum.