

**RECOMMENDED STANDARD CLEANING PROCEDURES**  
**FOR PAINTED ALUMINUM**

1. Painted surfaces should be cleaned as soon as possible after installation to remove construction soils and accumulated environmental soils. Ideally, a forceful water rinse from the top down should be employed before applying any cleaner. Some type of surface agitation helps. A low volume of water at moderate pressure is better than a high volume at low pressure. Rubbing the surface with soft brushes, sponges or cloth during the rinsing also helps.
2. If a simple water rinse with brushing, sponging, or rubbing with a cloth is not sufficient to remove the soil; a mild detergent or mild soap will be necessary.

Brushing or sponging with a uniform pressure, first horizontally then vertically should do washing with a mild detergent or mild soap. Following the washing, the surfaces must be then vertically. Following the washing, the surfaces must be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. If the cleaner has been permitted to dry, it may be necessary to sponge the surfaces while rinsing. Rinsed surfaces may be permitted to air dry or may be wiped dry with a chamois, squeegee or lint-free cloth.

3. Cleaner run-down should be minimized and those areas subject to run-down should be rinsed immediately, and as long as necessary, to lessen the probability of streaking.
4. Cleaning chemicals must not be allowed to collect on surfaces, to "puddle" on horizontal surfaces or to collect in joints and crevices. These surfaces, joints and crevices should be thoroughly flushed with water and dried.
5. Mild detergents and soaps which are safe for bare hands should be safe for coated Aluminum. Stronger detergents, such as some dishwater detergents, should be carefully spot tested. Some of the latter would necessitate using rubber gloves and long handled brushes. Some mild cleaning solutions are available for automatic building washing machines.
6. Mild solvents such as mineral spirits may be used to remove grease, sealant or caulking Compounds. Care should be taken to assure that no surface marring takes place in this manner since it could give an undesirable appearance at certain viewing angles. Cleaners of this type are usually applied and removed with a clean cloth. Remaining residue should be washed with mild soap and rinsed with water. Use solvent cleaners sparingly.
7. Dried concrete spillage on the painted surface may be quite stubborn to remove. Special cleaners and / or vigorous rubbing with non-abrasive brushes or plastic scrapers may be necessary.

Diluted solutions of muriatic acid (under 10%) may be effective in removing dried concrete stains and effective proprietary cleaners for concrete and mortar staining are available; however, a test area should be tried first and proper handling precautions must be exercised for safety reasons.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

Always test a small area first.

Stronger solvents or solvents containing cleaners may soften paints. To prevent damage to the finish, the coating manufacturer should be consulted and these types of solvent or emulsion cleaners should first be spot tested.

Since solvents may extract materials from sealant, which could stain the painted surface or could prove harmful to sealant, their possible effects must be considered.

Always rinse the surface after removing heavy surface soil.

Mixing cleaners may not only be ineffective, but also very dangerous. For example, mixing chlorine-containing materials such as bleaches with other cleaning compounds containing ammonia can produce a poisonous gas.

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

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