

cleaning and care instructions

cleaning and care of anodised or powder-coated aluminium surfaces.

Anodised or coated surfaces are considered particularly durable; however, despite their good resistance to air, weather and exhaust fumes, as well as their resistance to tarnishing, they require a certain amount of care to maintain the surface in the best possible condition. Cleaning agents containing oxide-dissolving agents, such as those commonly used for other metals, or abrasive agents (emery, wire brushes, etc.) are not permitted. Where cleaning is carried out by a cleaning contractor, the guidelines of the Gütegemeinschaft für die Reinigung von Metallfassaden e.V. (GRM) apply.

To maintain coated aluminium components properly, they must be cleaned at least twice a year at regular intervals – or more frequently in the event of significant environmental exposure or soiling – in accordance with the following guidelines:

- › Use pure water, with small amounts of neutral or very slightly alkaline detergent added if necessary, for cleaning.
- › Do not use any abrasive cleaning agents (e.g. scouring cream, etc.).
- › The surface temperature of the components to be cleaned must not exceed 25°C.
- › Cleaning agents must also only be used when cold (max. 25°C).
- › Do not use high-pressure washers or steam cleaners!
- › Do not use acidic or strongly alkaline cleaning agents or wetting agents that may corrode aluminium (nitro thinner, nail varnish remover, etc.).
- › Do not use abrasive or scouring materials (steel wool, the scouring side of household sponges, etc.) or sharp-edged tools (knives, metal scrapers, etc.).
- › Use only soft, lint-free cloths or industrial cotton wool for cleaning, and avoid vigorous rubbing!
- › Do not use any organic solvents containing esters, ketones, alcohols, aromatic compounds, glycol ethers or halogenated hydrocarbons, etc.
- › Do not use any cleaning agents of unknown composition.
- › Greasy, oily or sooty substances can be removed using aromatic-free hydrocarbon solvents. Before use, test the cleaning agent on an inconspicuous area to ensure that it does not damage visible surfaces.
- › Residues of adhesives, silicone rubber or adhesive tape, etc., can also be removed in this way. It is important to remove them immediately.
- › The maximum contact time for these cleaning agents must not exceed one hour. After at least 24 hours, the cleaning process may be repeated if necessary.
- › Surface corrosion can be caused by chemicals contained in building materials and cleaning products. Such chemicals (e.g. alkaline earth metals, acidic solutions) can lead to permanent corrosion, particularly when exposed over a long period. This also applies to fresh concrete, render, lime, plaster, etc., if these materials come into contact with the aluminium surface. Anodised surfaces are particularly sensitive to unset lime; it is therefore advisable to mask the surface with plastic sheeting before work begins and to wash off any splashes immediately.
- › Should a coated component become soiled during transport, storage or assembly, it must be cleaned immediately using clear, cold or lukewarm (max. 25°C) water. For stubborn stains, neutral or mildly alkaline cleaning agents may be used.
- › Joint sealants and other auxiliary materials, such as glazing aids, lubricants, drilling and cutting agents, adhesives, grouting compounds, putties, adhesive and masking tapes, etc., which come into contact with coated surfaces, must be pH-neutral and free from substances that damage paintwork. Exposure to sunlight increases the chemical aggressiveness of these substances. The aforementioned substances must therefore be tested for compatibility with the coating prior to use.
- › Rinse with clean, cold water immediately after each cleaning cycle!

For components coated with fine-textured powder coatings, we would particularly like to draw your attention to the roughness of the surface, which, by its very nature, is difficult to clean. Such surfaces must be cleaned with particular care, following the cleaning instructions described above. Incorrect cleaning (vigorous rubbing, etc.) may damage the fine texture of the surface!

cleaning and care of glass

- › Glass surfaces can be damaged by a number of factors. To prevent this, protective measures must be taken in accordance with the conditions on site.
- › If welding or grinding work is carried out near glass surfaces, the glass surface must be protected from flying sparks, weld spatter, etc.
- › The cleaning of the panes and the removal of residue from labels and spacer plates must be carried out on site using mild cleaning agents. Any dirt on the panes that cannot be removed using the standard wet method – involving plenty of water, a sponge, a squeegee, a chamois leather or standard commercial spray cleaners and cloths – can be removed using fine industrial steel wool or household cleaning products (e.g. Stahlfix, Sidolin).
- › Tools that may scratch the surface, such as razor blades and scrapers, have to be avoided as they can cause scratch marks on the surface.
- › Cement slurry and residues from building materials (concrete, render, lime, plaster, etc.) must be removed immediately to prevent chemical etching of the glass surface, which can cause the glass to become opaque.
- › Any residue that may form whilst smoothing the sealing layers must be removed immediately.
- › Do not use acidic or strongly alkaline cleaning agents (in particular hydrofluoric acid and cleaning agents containing fluoride).
- › Chemicals contained in building materials and cleaning products can cause chemical etching of the glass pane. Particularly when exposed over a long period, such chemicals (e.g. alkaline earth metals, acidic solutions) lead to permanent etching. This also applies to fresh concrete, render, lime, plaster, etc., if these materials come into contact with the glass surface.
- › Prolonged exposure to water can also cause surface damage, particularly if the glass has been exposed to heavy soiling for a long time prior to the post-construction cleaning. Glass panes must be cleaned regularly, and may need to be cleaned even during the construction phase.
- › Where streaks form as a result of abrasion of glazing sealants (or possibly also due to lubricants used when sealing glass with dry-glazing profiles), it may be possible to remove the streaks using specialised cleaning agents, such as glass polish, although this involves a great deal of effort. However, this method is not an option for coatings on the outside of the glazing!
- › The surface of the sealant has to be cleaned with a damp, soft cloth using standard window cleaning products (or methylated spirits if the surface is very dirty).
- › Rinse with clean, cold water immediately after each cleaning cycle!

cleaning satin-finished glass

Satin-finished glass has a slightly rough surface on one side. As a result, it is more prone to becoming soiled than smooth glass surfaces. In addition to the general cleaning instructions described above, the following guidelines apply to satin-finished glass:

- › Do not use cleaning products containing silicone or acids
- › Stubborn stains that cannot be removed with standard cleaning products have to be pre-treated with specialised cleaning products (such as Pril, Ajax or similar) and then removed using the usual wet cleaning method. Steam cleaners with built-in suction can also be used for stubborn stains.
- › Heavy soiling has to be removed using suitable solvents (methylated spirits, acetone or a suitable light petroleum cleaning solvent). Care must be taken to ensure that seals and other organic components are not damaged.

The general cleaning instructions described above apply to laminated safety glass. However, we recommend that you do not use methylated spirits or alcohol, nor any cleaning products containing high concentrations of these substances, as these can cause localised clouding on exposed edges.

general information

Due to the wide variety of potential sources of soiling, it is not possible to provide recommendations for every situation. In the case of particularly stubborn soiling, preliminary tests should be carried out on inconspicuous, concealed areas.

Please follow the instructions for use provided with the cleaning products!

Our verbal and written recommendations, which we provide to assist you based on our experience, to the best of our knowledge and in accordance with the current state of scientific and practical knowledge, are non-binding, do not claim to be exhaustive and do not give rise to any contractual legal relationship or ancillary obligation under the sales contract. They do not relieve the purchaser of their responsibility to check whether our products are suitable for the intended use.

This information sheet supersedes all previous versions on this subject. If the date of this information sheet is more than 12 months old, please request a new copy.