

# Maintenance of Anodised Aluminium used for External Architectural Applications

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In order to protect the appearance of the fabrication, it is recommended they are regularly maintained. This is best carried out as part of the programme for the cleaning of the windows.

## **ANODISED FINISHES**

Fabrications should be protected by tape during installation. Any adhesive residue should be removed with solvent recommended by the tape supplier.

In city and marine environments it is recommended that the anodised surface should be washed down at three monthly intervals but at least half yearly as specified in BS 3987. In industrial environments this cleaning may need to be more frequent but the condition of the surface will make this apparent.

## **General Cleaning**

This should be carried out using a mild non-alkaline detergent in warm water and dried down with a cloth such as chamois leather. Cleaning solutions should have a pH figure of between 6.5 and 7.5. Use of a more aggressive cleaner will not compensate for lack of regular maintenance and the use of such a cleaner will in many cases damage the surface.

It is recommended that an unobtrusive test area is cleaned before work commences using the cleaning agent at the concentration proposed, applied in the intended manner. After the cleaner has been allowed to dry an assessment should be made to confirm that the results are satisfactory.

## **Specific Cleaning**

It may be necessary to scrub some surfaces, particularly in areas where dirt accumulates as a consequence of rainwater failing to wash deposits off naturally. The anodising will tolerate use of a stiff bristle or nylon brush without any damage to the finish or invalidation of the guarantee.

In the case of tenacious deposits or smut reformation it may be necessary to use more aggressive cleaners such as ultra fine abrasive pads, powdered pumice with water or a proprietary cleaner. Tenacious deposits normally only occur when the method or frequency of general cleaning is inadequate for the local environment.

After cleaning, all surfaces should be washed down to remove any residual deposits.

## **General Comments**

An anodic film complying fully with BS 3987 if properly maintained has a proven service life of in excess of 40 years.

Please contact us for details of our lifetime of façade guarantee