

## Caring for your Aluminium

### POWDER COATED PRODUCTS:

Many products are powder coated both to protect and to beautify the article. These powder coated articles can include such diverse products as your window joinery, entrance or garage doors, letterboxes, meter boxes, lawn mowers, plant pots and many other every day items.

To extend the life of powder coated products and to comply with warranty requirements for powder coated aluminium joinery, a simple, regular maintenance program should be implemented. The effects of ultra violet light, atmospheric pollution, dirt, grime and airborne salt deposits can all accumulate over time and should be removed at regular intervals.

As a general rule cleaning should take place every six months. In areas where pollutants are more prevalent, such as coastal areas and industrial or geothermal areas, then a cleaning program should be carried out on a more frequent basis i.e. every one to three months.

### THREE STEPS TO CLEANING YOUR POWDER COATING:

1. Carefully remove any loose surface deposits with a wet sponge.
2. Use a soft brush (non-abrasive) and a mild household detergent (do not use solvents) in warm water, remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with clean fresh water.

### RESTORING WEATHERED OR SCRATCHED SURFACES:

If through some misadventure your powder coated aluminium joinery is scratched or damaged, don't panic Dulux Powder & Industrial Coatings colour Repair Kits are available in all colour card colours.

Spray cans make easy aesthetic repairs to scuffed or scratched powder coated surfaces. Weathered areas or mild scratches can also be restored with the use of Dulux Gloss Up which is a light to medium cutting cream ideally suited for gloss restoration and has been specifically designed for this purpose.

### THE GOLDEN RULES FOR PROTECTING YOUR ALUMINIUM:

- Please mask your joinery when building, renovating, plastering or painting.
- If paint splatters or sealants do get on joinery, do not allow to dry, remove immediately.
- DO NOT use turpentine, white spirits, thinners, citrus based cleaners or other aggressive solvents on powder coating (these may be harmful to the extended life of the powder coated surface and should be avoided as the damage may not be visible immediately and may take up to twelve months to appear) affect painted finishes.
- DO use isopropyl alcohol or Methylated spirits and rinse with warm soapy water.
- DO clean only when powder coated surface temperature is below 25 C°.
- DO NOT rub powder coating excessively, especially metallic finishes.
- DO use approved tapes only to mask joinery.
- Use masking tapes in accordance with manufacturer's instruction.

### IMPORTANT FOR ALL TRADES:

This valuable aluminium joinery will suffer permanent damage from: plaster, mortar and paint splashes - Protect if splashes occur - Immediately wash down the joinery with water or meths - Do not allow splashes to harden - Do not use solvents!

### ANODISED PRODUCTS:

The life of an anodised finish can be greatly enhanced by the adoption of a regular documented maintenance programme. Any chemical attack on decorative surfaces which is not regularly cleaned becomes increasingly severe and after several years, may be impossible to restore. A regular cleaning and maintenance regime is essential for two very good reasons:

- To maintain a decorative appearance and to reduce any chemical attack, if applicable
- Anodised surfaces are cleaned to remove dirt, grime, grit, atmospheric pollutants and iridescence.

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Initial cleaning should occur after installation, to remove atmospheric dust, smut, deposits of dirt, possible Cement deposits, glues, etc. from the anodised surface. Periodic cleaning that should be done on a regular basis. The intervals of each cleaning cycle are dependent on the atmospheric pollutants, area, region, corrosive level, etc. for a particular region. i.e. coastal areas

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- Protect exposed Aluminium surfaces until all wet trades etc. have been completed.
- Any cement or acid should be removed as soon as practical. This will prevent any chemical attack.
- When cleaning, wash down all surfaces with a neutral detergent and rinse thoroughly.
- Remove awkward deposits on ANODISED aluminium, with a suitable nylon abrasive cleaning pad or brush, plus neutral detergent, and then rinse.
- The use of an Anodising sanding rubber is also recommended where appropriate, please consult your ASL Representative for more information.
- To clean long neglected areas it is advisable to use proprietary cleaners specifically formulated for aluminium surfaces. These products contain residual waxes etc. and can substantially improve the appearance of worn or weathered surfaces.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD NEVER DO:

- Use of wire brushes, steel wool, and emery paper are NOT recommended under any circumstances.
- Avoid mechanical damage from scaffolding, site handling, mechanical impact etc.
- Do NOT allow strong acids such as Hydrochloric, Acetic etc. to come into contact with anodised aluminium.
- Do NOT allow mortar or mortar cleaning chemicals to come into contact with anodised surfaces.
- Do NOT allow strong alkalis such as caustic soda, lime etc. to come into contact with anodised aluminium.
- Do NOT allow Brass or Copper to come into direct contact or close proximity to Anodised Aluminium.

### ONSITE HANDLING:

Ensure that the aluminium is properly protected with interleaved wrapping in paper or plastic and ensure that the wrapping does not get damp during storage. To ensure that the anodised coating is not attacked by corrosive chemicals, a temporary protective coating can be applied in the form of a suitable non-yellowing lacquer, e.g. methyl methacrylate or cellulose acetate butyrate, or a strippable coating or tape (polyethylene) is recommended. Tape and strippable coatings should be easily removable and should not leave residues.