



ELITE ALUMINUM CORPORATION

INSULATED PANEL PRODUCTS • ARCHITECTURAL GLASS ENCLOSURES

Recommendations for Cleaning Pre-painted Metal

Introduction

The coil process for metal is designed to give a long lasting finish that needs periodic maintenance. During the production process the substrates are chemically cleaned and pretreated then immediately coated to ensure the freshest surface and best adhesion and corrosion protection. Special heat cured coatings are applied by direct rolling, followed by baking at high temperatures. The process results in a hard, durable finish that is resistant to deterioration by weather.

Cleaning Pre-painted Surfaces

The durability of the pre-painted finish is a combined result of coating technology, baked-on coatings and regular, thorough cleanings. These products have been designed and manufactured to last for many years and periodic maintenance will keep them looking like new.

Dirt and Other Surface Contaminants

As with any outdoor article, occasional cleaning may be desirable. A simple solution of detergent in warm water is the best way to maintain the like-new appearance. Detergents like Tide with less than 0.5% phosphate can be mixed at one cup per five gallons of water. Clean the affected areas with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush, rinsing immediately. Although the pre-paint will resist most mild cleaners and fresh water, take care not to scratch the painted surfaces.

Chalking

All paints exposed to direct sunlight will slowly degrade over time, losing gloss and leaving a powdery chalk residue. Rain and weather conditions will typically clean up the loose particles, but if build up persists, chalk can be removed using the same methods and materials described above. Be sure to rinse well and protect concrete and other surfaces below the pre-paint from staining



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Mold & Mildew

In warm and humid conditions, mold and mildew can grow on the pre-paint. If left for an extended period, the spores will penetrate the surface coating, causing staining and reducing the product's life. Mold and mildew should be cleaned thoroughly as soon as it is discovered. Mix one cup of mild soap (like Ivory) and one gallon of bleach into five gallons of water. Wash the surface with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush, for stubborn stains. Rinse with fresh water. Take care to protect your eyes, skin and surrounding areas, including carpets, plants and cloth.

Grease, Oil, Wax, Etc.

Cleaning with detergent and water as described above should be tried first. Small areas can be cleaned with commercial kitchen cleaners, while larger areas may require a commercial grease remover diluted with some fresh water. For persistent stains, a less desirable alternative is to wipe with a solvent like Xylene or Naphtha. Be sure to use plenty of clean cloths to avoid just moving the oily stain around and observe all personal safety and fire warnings of the product. Note: solvent wiping can affect the long term durability of the pre-painted metal by softening or removing the film.

Things to Avoid

Cleaning with stiff bristle brushes, wire brushes, abrasive cleansers should be avoided as these items can damage the original film integrity of the pre-painted surface. Power washers can be effective on large surfaces, but care should be taken not to undermine the paint. Stop immediately if the pre-paint has been scratched or opened to the substrate. Acid based cleaners, like CLR, or high phosphate detergents should be avoided as they can damage the finish. Strong commercial cleaners should be tested in a small area to determine if they would cause any adverse affects.