

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF JOINERY

1. POWDERCOATED ALUMINIUM WINDOWS - A GOOD CHOICE!

Thank you for choosing to purchase aluminium windows. Your windows are factory pre-finished in long lasting electro statically applied powder coating. A combination of painstaking preparation, careful workmanship, and the latest technology have come together to bring you your powder coated windows and doors in the decorator colours of your choice. Powder coating is one of the most durable colour coatings available and with very little effort on your part; it will provide you with many years of excellent service.

We want you to get the full long-term benefit of choosing low maintenance powder coated windows. So we have prepared this information sheet for you which details the few simple things you need to do to get maximum satisfaction from your investment.

2. REGULAR WASHING IS THE KEY TO LOOKING SMART

To maintain the good looks of your powder coated aluminium windows, each window and door unit needs regular washing all over - not just the parts that are sheltered from the rain. In fact looking after your windows is very much like looking after a new car - a regular wash keeps your investment in smart condition.

Unless you are close to the seaside or are in a similar harsh environment - such as near an industrial area, washing down your windows about every three months should be sufficient. Simply use a good quality, soft bristled, window-washing brush as sold by general hardware stores. Some brushes have in-built detergent dispensers and connect directly to the garden tap. These brushes make it really easy to rinse off the detergent bubbles - which is a very important part of the care process.

If you choose to wash the windows by hand in the traditional way, simply use a dilute solution of mild liquid detergent such as Sunlight® Liquid Dishwash (manufactured by Lever Rexona and available in your supermarket) mixed the same way you would use to wash your dishes. Be sure to rinse off the window with a gentle spray from the garden hose, and dry the glass to avoid any marks developing.

Note Well: Drain Holes are provided in our aluminium joinery, these require regular cleaning i.e. removal of dirt / grit so moisture is free to drain away.

3. WHAT TO DO ABOUT PAINT SPLASHES

Working around your house painting overhead roof soffits and the like may cause paint splashes to mar the appearance of your windows. The best thing to do is to act quickly and remove such splashes with a cloth soaked in methylated spirits. Always rinse off the area cleaned with methylated spirits using clean water.

WARNING: - *Never* use any other kind of solvent cleaner as it could damage the powder coating, or cause it to deteriorate and age rapidly. Common solvents such as petrol, Acetates, Dulon Thinners, and Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) are very damaging to powder coat and must never come into contact with it. Highly acidic, alkali and many common household solvent or alcohol-based cleaners are not recommended either.

4. REFURBISHING POWDER COATED PRODUCTS

All surfaces eventually degrade on prolonged exposure to the elements. Change of colour, loss of gloss and some chalking may eventuate after time. A number of restoration techniques are possible. These will depend on the particular circumstances, and the life expectancy of the refurbishment. The type of refurbishment chosen may vary between domestic and commercial applications.

For Domestic Refurbishment, we recommend restoring weathered and mild scratches with a cream polish. This will both clean and protect the surface. The recommended polishes are Kitten Liquid Cut & Polish or Turtle Wax Colour Back.

For badly scratched surfaces use a dab stick or aerosol can with colour matched paint. These are available from the company that supplied your aluminium windows and doors. They will be able to provide the appropriate colour match to your original order.

You are welcome to contact the Window Association (WANZ) in the event your local supplier is unable to meet your requirements. Please write to PO Box 11-464 Wellington, or telephone on 04-528 8061. WANZ represents almost all

aluminium window manufacturers throughout New Zealand as well as the component supply industries from which the finished windows are manufactured. We will do our best to help you.

Anodised aluminium joinery is not only attractive, but also offers a durable and tough wearing finish. Some deterioration of the anodic oxide coating occurs mainly as a result of grime deposition and subsequent attack by moisture, particularly when it is contaminated with sulphur compounds. Regular cleaning is essential if the finish of anodised aluminium is to be preserved over a long period.

Cleaning

The anodised aluminium should be washed down with warm water and a suitable wetting agent or mild soap solution, in a similar manner to washing a car. Fine brushes may be used to loosen attached dirt/grime - the use of anything stiffer or more abrasive may result in damage to the surface. Acid or alkali cleaners should not be used, as these will damage anodic films and may discolour coloured joinery.

Where greasy deposits or hard to remove grime is present, cleaning may be by means of a soft cloth dipped in white spirit, turpentine, kerosene, or a liquid scourers (for example "Jiff"® - a Lever Rexona household product available from Supermarkets) followed by wiping with a dry rag.

***Note Well:** Solvents other than methylated spirits must be kept from contact with the vinyl glazing gasket materials, as most solvents damage glazing gaskets.*

It is essential to rinse thoroughly after cleaning with copious applications of clean water particularly where crevices are present, and then dry the glass to avoid any marks developing.

Regular washing of your anodised joinery will ensure a long lasting product, in general the following programme is recommended:

Rural: Every six months

Urban: Every three months

Industrial and Marine environments: (within 1 km of the sea): Three monthly warm water detergent wash, as well as monthly cold water washing.

For additional protection especially in harsh environments, waxing with a good quality car wax after washing will assist in lifting and maintaining the appearance of your anodised joinery.

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If you need further assistance, or are unsure about any aspect of the care and maintenance of your anodised aluminium joinery, please contact your local aluminium window and door fabricator.

