



CARE/CLEANING

ALUMINUM

INSTALLATION CARE

Until building construction is completed, protective measures should be practiced ensuring a top-quality installation; the ultimate goal is end user satisfaction with their aluminum products. Mortar, cement and other alkaline materials will quickly corrode anodic coatings if allowed to dry on the metal surface. If welding in the vicinity of aluminum materials is necessary, take measures to protect surfaces and prevent splatter contact from occurring. Keep tools, ladders, scaffolding, and other equipment from resting or sliding on finished surfaces in order to mitigate potential scratches and dents. Remove pressure sensitive tapes from finished aluminum surfaces, as it tends to bake on after exposure to the sun and elements, making its removal very difficult. Aluminum is compatible with some stainless-steel alloys, chromium, zinc and small areas of white bronze. Where permanent contact with other metals cannot be avoided, the risk of galvanic corrosion can be greatly reduced by painting the other metal at the contact area with a single coat of heavy-bodied bituminous paint. When dissimilar metal cannot be painted, the aluminum may be given the insulating treatment. As an alternative, a strip of plastic or similar insulator may be used in place of paint. For detailed care, cleaning and protection of aluminum, ensure to reference the American Architectural Manufacturer's Association (AAMA) specification 609 & 610-02 - Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Architecturally Finished Aluminum

POST INSTALLTION CARE

As with any finished building material, anodized aluminum requires reasonable care prior to and during installation and periodic cleaning and maintenance after installation. Muriatic acid (hydrochloric), used for cleaning brick, must be prevented from contacting aluminum. Should this happen, the acid should be immediately rinsed off with clean water. Although anodized aluminum possesses exceptional resistance to corrosion, discoloration and wear, its natural beauty can be marred by harsh chemicals, rough conditions or neglect. Such conditions usually affect only the surface of the finish and do not reduce the service life of the aluminum. However, the marks resulting from such mistreatment may be permanent. Main components of aluminum should be routinely cleaned as part of a general maintenance program. Aluminum windows, curtainwall and entrance framing should be included in the building maintenance program and can be conveniently combined with other maintenance items such as glass cleaning. The frequency of cleaning required is determined by the local atmospheric conditions; aluminum installed in areas that have a unique combination of smog, dust, temperature variation and heavy condensation require much more frequent cleaning than aluminum which is frequently cleaned by rainfall.

GENERAL CLEANING AND CARE TIPS

Several pitfalls should be avoided in cleaning architectural aluminum. One is the human tendency to use aggressive cleaners that work much more rapidly in place of mild cleaners with the belief that substituting an occasional application of heavy-duty cleaner, in place of mild cleaners, can reduce frequency or cleaning costs. Another is the tendency/ being accustomed to scouring metal surfaces with harsh cleaners and then to also attempt do this with aluminum. It is imperative to reference the American Architectural Manufacturer's Association specification AAMA 609 & 610-02 - Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Architecturally Finished Aluminum for instruction on the removal of light to medium and medium to heavy surface soil on anodic and organic finished aluminum. This specification publication can be found at www.aamanet.org

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