

# I Maintenance



## Maintenance

### Cleaning Recommendations

The coated surfaces will be subjected to weathering and the effects of natural soiling. As a result a buildings facade will change in appearance, becoming less attractive over the course of time. Soiling is accompanied by the effects of corrosive agents. For this reason coated façades must be cleaned in order to:

- Maintain their decorative appearance
- Reduce the effects of corrosion

To offset the natural wearing of the coating surface, TIGER recommends yearly inspections to identify any damage that may have ensued. These inspections will detect any issues with the coating at an early stage, and suitable repairs can be made at that time.

Powder coated interior elements should be cleaned in the same way as façade elements in order to maintain the coating's appearance and function.

The regular cleaning of powder coated elements ensures the original appearance and long-term value of a building are safeguarded.

Recommendations for the optimum care of coated façade elements and interior parts:

- Use only clean water with slight additives of neutral washing agents (pH 5-8) with the aid of non-abrasive soft cloths, rags or industrial cotton. Strong rubbing is to be avoided.
- Abrasives or abrasive cleaning agents must not be used. The temperature of the parts to be cleaned should not exceed 77 °F (25 °C).
- Do not use strong acid or alkaline cleaning agents or surface active compounds that may react with the metal.
- Do not use solvents containing esters, ketones, alcohols, aromatics, glycol ethers, halogenated hydrocarbons or other similar compounds.
- Cleaning agents or detergents of unknown active ingredients must not be used. Greasy, oily or carbon substances can be removed with the help of naphtha hydrocarbons free from aromatic compounds or isopropyl alcohol (IPA). Remove residues from glues, silicone rubber and adhesive tapes the same way and do so immediately.
- Contact with sealing compounds and any other auxiliary products such as glazing aids, waxes, drilling and cutting lubricants may cause possible color and appearance changes. Always perform suitability tests prior to cleaning of coatings with a metallic effect.
- Cleaning agents at temperatures higher than 77 °F (25 °C) and steam jets must not be used.
- Cleaning agents should not remain on the surface for more than one hour. After a minimum of 24 hours the cleaning may be repeated, if necessary.
- Rinse with clean cold water immediately after each cleaning procedure.

For further information concerning maintenance and cleaning, please consult the following guidelines:

American Architectural Manufacturers Association, USA  
Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Architecturally Finished Aluminum AAMA 609 & 610-02  
QUALICARE, Switzerland  
European Quality Label for the Cleaning and Maintenance of Metal Façade - January 2000  
Window & Façade Association, Germany  
Visual Inspection of Originally Coated Aluminum Surfaces VFF  
Guidance Sheet Al.02  
Cleaning Organically Coated Metal Structural Elements VFF  
Specifications WP GRM Association for Cleaning of Metal Façades, Germany  
Cleaning of Metal Façades, Quality Assurance RAL-GZ 632

## Recommendations for Repairs

Coatings may be damaged during transport, assembly or in the course of a building's service life. The proper method for repairing coated metal surfaces depends on the application and ambient influences.

To restore the coated surface's original level of protection and overall appearance we recommend using experts for all repair jobs.

The repair coating should be tested on a suitable area beforehand; this will ensure the best possible match of colors and trouble-free adhesion under normal conditions.

### **Exterior Application**

For repairing exterior powder coated surfaces, two-component poly-acrylate, polyurethane or fluoropolymer coatings are the most suitable. The weather resistance obtained by such repair coatings must be equal to the powder coated finish.

Most minor damage such as scratches that do not penetrate the coated surface can be eliminated using the two-component coating. If the damage extends down to the metal substrate, use a two-component epoxy primer as a base coat to maintain the original anti-corrosion protection.

### **Interior Application**

To repair minor damage that does not extend to the metal substrate an air-drying, alkyd resin-based top coat is appropriate. Many such coatings are water-based and low in solvents.

Please remember that the mechanical properties of such repairs are not comparable to those of original powder coatings.