



CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

For powder coated metal façade components.

A thorough cleaning of coated façade components is required to conserve the façade decorative appearance and to reduce the corrosion strain.

Powder coated surfaces proper maintenance and regular servicing are prerequisites for claims related to any guarantee and require regular cleaning at least once per year. Buildings must be cleaned more often when they are located in severe polluted environments such as a region with increased salt contamination and/or chemical exhausts, a direct area of influence or within the vicinity of an industrial or chemical enterprise, the immediate vicinity of a sea coast or within a defined chemical/radioactive precipitation zone. An early detection of a possible damage can allow timely recognition and can be remedied on time by suitable measures.

When a coated component is soiled during transportation, storage or assembly, cleaning the component must take place immediately with clear cold or lukewarm water. A neutral or weak alkaline detergent can be used against severe soiling.

Certified façade cleaning

As a prerequisite of a coated construction proper care, the construction must be regularly cleaned according to the guidelines of the **Registered Quality Association for the Cleaning of Metal Façade Elements**, and is carried out by a member of the above mentioned association with detergents and cleaning aids in conformity with RAL-GZ 632-1996 and certified by the same association for the certified cleaning of façades with coated surfaces – before every initial cleaning and before every change to another detergent and cleaning-aid during ongoing cleaning intervals, these are to be additionally tested for their suitability on a test area facing south on an unexposed point of at least 21.5 ft² (2 m²) – or to be at least cleaned according to the following guidelines:

- As the case may be, 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.
- The removal of greasy, oily or sooty substances can take place with the use of white spirit free of aromatic compounds or isopropyl alcohol (IPA). Adhesives, silicone cartouche, adhesive tapes or other residues can also be removed this way.
- Do not use solvents or similar diluents containing ester, ketones, alcohol, aromatics, ethylene glycol or halogenated hydrocarbon.
- Joint sealants and other aids such as glazing aids, lubricant agents, drilling and cutting lubricants which come into contact with coated surfaces, must be pH-neutral and free of paint-damaging substances. They must be first subjected to a suitability test.
- Due to the danger of changes in a color tone or effect, a test for suitability is to be undertaken for metallic powder coatings.
- Do not use scratching or abrasive agents.
- Do not use strong acids, alkaline detergents or introfiers.
- Do not use detergents of unknown composition.
- Detergents must not be used at temperatures higher than 77 °F (25 °C).
- Do not use steam-jet devices.
- During cleaning, the façade components surface temperature must not exceed 77 °F (25 °C).
- The maximum exposure period of detergents must not exceed one hour. When necessary, the entire cleaning process can be repeated at least after 24 hours.
- Rinsing with clean cold water should take place immediately after every cleaning process.

Further Information for maintenance and cleaning can be obtained, among others, from the American Architectural Manufacturer's Association (AAMA 610-1979 Cleaning Procedures).