

Cleaning of polyester powder-coating on aluminium products

Powder-coated products need to be cleaned to ensure the coating exceeds the guarantee period, maximises its life-span and retains its aesthetic qualities.

The British Standard for powder-coating on aluminium for external use, BS 6496: 1984 (1991) states that six months is the longest recommended gap between cleans. Areas of high industrial pollution and marine or swimming pool environments (aggressive environments) will require different cleaning frequencies and other coating/fabrication parameters should be considered on an individual project basis. However, generally, cleaning should be carried out monthly.

To retain a guarantee on the coated metal it is a mandatory requirement for the door owner to keep a log of all cleaning conducted. This is to be held for the lifetime of the guarantee, except in aggressive environs where each door is given an individual time-span for the powder-coating guarantee.

To clean powder-coated products, mild detergent dissolved in warm water is to be used. Approved products to dilute are: Ajax Cream, Liquid Gumption, Flash, Ajax Liquid.

Abrasive cleaners, strong acidic or alkaline cleaners or cleaning products containing solvents, bleach, washing soda, caustic soda, hydrochloric acid brick wash etc. must not be used on or near the coated products. The use of these cleaning agents will negate the guarantee for the coating and will reduce its life-span.

For all cleaning products, an assessment of the cleaning product's data sheet will be required to ensure safe working practice is observed by the cleaner, ensure splashing and run-off rinse is not going to be an issue for individuals or the Local Environmental Agency.

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