



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CABLETRADE™ ALUMINIUM POWDER COATED SYSTEMS

Over time and after exposure to the elements, powder coating like all paint finishes will display signs of weathering such as loss of gloss, chalking and a slight colour change. The rate at which this change of appearance occurs will depend on the location, environment and aspect of the building.

As a result, powder coatings need to be cleaned and maintained regularly to ensure the decorative and protective properties of the coating are retained.

The frequency of such cleaning will depend on many factors including the geographical location of the building, the environment surrounding the building (i.e. marine, industrial, alkaline/acidic etc.) levels of atmospheric pollution, prevailing wind, protection of the building by other buildings, possibility of airborne debris (eg sand) causing erosive wear of the coating and the changing environmental circumstances during the lifetime wear of the building (eg rural becomes industrial)

Cleaning should start at the time the system is installed ensuring that construction materials are removed before they have a chance to dry. Failure to remove these materials at this stage will require the use of aggressive cleaning materials and techniques with potential damage to the surface.

The best method of cleaning is by regular washing of the coating using warm water and non-abrasive pH neutral detergent solution. Surfaces should be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning to remove all residues. All surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth or sponge, using nothing harsher than natural bristle brushes.

The frequency of cleaning depends in part of the standard of appearance that is required and also the environment. In industrial and severe marine environments the normal frequency of cleaning should be at not more than three monthly intervals.

However, where there is high atmospheric pollution or an extremely hazardous atmosphere (ie a combination of factors) this period should be reduced to monthly cleaning if deterioration of the coating is to be prevented.

Where the atmosphere is deemed to be non-hazardous (eg rural or normal urban environments) then the period between cleaning can be extended to six months. However if heavy soiling occurs more regular cleaning is recommended.