

# Care & Maintenance Guide

## Anodised & Powder Coated Joinery

### REGULAR CLEANING IS ESSENTIAL FOR PRODUCT LONGEVITY

#### ANODISED JOINERY

Anodised Aluminium Joinery is not only attractive, but also offers a durable and tough wearing finish. Some deterioration of the anodic oxide coating occurs but mainly as a result of grime deposition and subsequent attack by moisture, particularly when it is contaminated with sulphur compounds. Regular cleaning is essential if the finish of anodised aluminium is to be preserved over a long period.

#### CLEANING

The anodised aluminium should be washed down with warm water and a suitable wetting agent or mild soap solution, in a similar manner to washing a car. Fine brushes may be used to loosen attached dirt/grime - the use of anything stiffer or more abrasive may result in damage to the surface. Acid or alkali cleaners should not be used, as these will damage anodic films and may discolour coloured joinery. Where greasy deposits or hard to remove grime is present, cleaning of the anodising may be by means of a soft cloth dipped in white spirit, turpentine, kerosene, or a liquid scourer (for example "Jiff"® - a Lever Rexona household product available from supermarkets) followed by wiping with a dry rag. Make sure none of these solvents come into contact with other parts of the window.

*Note: All Solvents must be kept from contact with the vinyl glazing gasket materials, as most solvents damage glazing gaskets (the "rubber" seal around the glass).*

It is essential to rinse thoroughly after cleaning, with copious applications of clean water particularly where crevices are present, and then dry the glass to avoid any marks developing. Regular washing of your anodised joinery will ensure a long lasting product. In general the following programme is recommended:

Rural: Every six months

Urban: Every three months

Industrial And Marine Environments:

(within 1 km of the sea): Six monthly warm water detergent wash, as well as monthly cold water washing.

#### POWDER COATED JOINERY

Your windows are factory pre-finished in long-lasting electrostatically applied powdercoating. A combination of painstaking preparation, careful workmanship, and the latest technology have come together to bring you your powdercoated windows and doors. Powdercoating is one of the most durable colour coatings available and with very little effort on your part, it will provide you with many years of excellent service. We want you to get the full long-term benefit of choosing low maintenance powdercoated windows. So we have prepared this information pack for you that details the few simple things you need to do to get maximum satisfaction from your investment.

#### REGULAR WASHING - THE KEY TO LOOKING SMART

To maintain the good looks of your powdercoated aluminium windows, each window and door unit needs regular washing all over - not just the parts that are sheltered from the rain. Unless you are close to the seaside or are in a similar harsh environment, such as near an industrial area, washing down your windows about every three months should be sufficient. Simply use a good quality, soft bristled, window washing brush as sold by general hardware stores. Some brushes have in-built detergent dispensers and connect directly to the garden tap. These brushes make it really easy to rinse off the detergent bubbles - which is a very important part of the care process.

If you choose to wash the windows by hand in the traditional way, simply use a diluted solution of mild liquid dishwash mixed the same way you would use to wash your dishes. Be sure to rinse off the window with a gentle spray from the garden hose, and dry the glass to avoid any marks developing.

#### WARNING

Never use any other kind of solvent cleaner as it could damage the powdercoating or cause it to deteriorate and age rapidly. Common solvents such as petrol, acetates, dulon thinners and Methyl Ethyl Detone (MEK) are very damaging to powdercoat and must never come into contact with it. Highly acidic, alkaline, common household solvent or alcohol-based cleaners are not recommended either. These comments apply equally to the other components that make up the window or door  
- we recommend you do not use any solvents other than water.

