

## **CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANODISED ALUPANEL (MIRROR/BRUSHED)**

The life of any Alupanel product with an anodised finish can be greatly enhanced by the implementation of a regular maintenance programme. Decorative surfaces which are not regularly cleaned will be more susceptible to chemical attack, which will become increasingly severe and after several years may be impossible to restore.

A regular cleaning and maintenance regime is essential for two reasons.

- 1) To maintain a decorative appearance and to reduce any chemical attack, if applicable
- 2) Anodised surfaces are cleaned to remove dirt, grime, grit, atmospheric pollutants and iridescence.

The cleaning procedures may be broken down into three distinct categories, namely:

### ***Primary Cleaning***

Primary cleaning is the initial cleaning to remove atmospheric dust, deposits of dirt, possible cement deposits, glues, etc.

### ***Periodic Cleaning***

This is the cleaning cycle that should be done on a regular basis after the primary or intensive phases. The intervals of each cleaning cycle are dependent on the atmospheric pollutants, corrosive level, etc, for a particular region and will normally will range from monthly to six monthly intervals.

### ***Intensive Cleaning***

This is normally a heavy duty clean that is carried out on a surface that has been neglected for some time. This may be carried out by companies that specialise in the cleaning of facades, windows, doors, curtain walling etc. The most important criteria of an aluminium cleaning agent is that it should be non-toxic, have a pH within 5 - 8 and be free of fluorides, chlorides, and sulphates. We recommend that the cleaning agent be tried on an unobtrusive part of the object to be cleaned to check whether the surface is affected.

### **What You Should Do**

- 1) Protect exposed Aluminium surfaces from water during installation.
- 2) Any cement or acid contact should be removed as soon as possible. This will prevent any chemical attack.
- 3) When cleaning, wash down all surfaces with a neutral detergent and rinse thoroughly.
- 4) Remove stubborn deposits on anodised aluminium with a suitable nylon abrasive cleaning pad or brush, plus neutral detergent, and then rinse.
- 5) Ensure the cleaning cloth/brush is clear of any abrasive deposits to prevent surface scratching during cleaning.
- 6) To clean long neglected areas of Alupanel cladding it is advisable to use proprietary cleaners specifically formulated for aluminium surfaces. These products contain residual waxes etc, and can substantially improve the appearance of worn or weathered surfaces.

### **What You should NEVER DO**

- 1) Use of wire brushes, steel wool and emery paper are NOT recommended under any circumstances.
- 2) Do NOT allow strong acids such as Hydrochloric, Acetic etc to come into contact with anodised aluminium.
- 3) Do NOT allow mortar or mortar cleaning chemicals to come into contact with anodised surfaces.
- 4) Do NOT allow strong alkalis such as caustic soda, lime, etc. to come into contact with anodised aluminium.
- 5) Anodised Aluminium should not be in direct contact with brass or copper.
- 6) Don't use abrasive cleaners which may cause scratches on Mirror ALUPANEL surface
- 7) Do not clean hot surfaces (>40 deg. Celsius) as the quick drying process may cause blemishes.