



recommendations for
care of coated aluminium



architectural coatings



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aluminium

finishing

recommendations for the
care of coated aluminium

These recommendations cover procedures for cleaning and maintenance of painted aluminium extrusions and curtain wall panels. The procedures are intended for use with powder coated, architectural and aluminium extrusions such as window frames, door frames, railings and trim as well as curtain wall panels, column covers, spandrels, mullions, louvres, vertical trim, etc.

These recommendations are intended to assist architects, contractors, owners and building managers who are concerned with the care and maintenance of painted, architectural aluminium. The information contains suggested methods as an aid in establishing safe, sound cleaning and maintenance procedures.

Technical Information Sheet 1

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Care of coated aluminium not only refers to cleaning and maintenance of the surface but also covers all other operations that may have detrimental effects on the surface, for instance transport, packaging, installation and so on.

Care should start immediately. Organic coating can suffer mechanical damage, like scratches on the surface, especially on some colours.

Recommendations will be given for the following steps:

1. Handling and transportation
2. Installation
3. Cleaning
4. Special finish
5. Cleaning frequency
6. Damage repair
7. Other recommendations

1. Handling and Transport

- a. The coated aluminium should be protected during handling to avoid mechanical damage.
- b. Suitable protective materials should be used for packaging and transportation (to avoid water spots caused by the greenhouse effect).
- c. Packaging should be securely fixed.

2. Installation

- d. During storage, the coated aluminium should be protected from the influence of weather elements and therefore stored out of direct sunlight, rain and other weather elements (sheltered storage).
- e. On the construction site and during construction, the coated aluminium should be protected from damage caused by abrasion and construction materials, such as paint, mortar, cleaning chemicals etc.
- f. If such materials have been in contact with the coated surface, they should be cleaned immediately before they have dried. Failure to remove these materials at this early stage will require the use of aggressive cleaning materials and techniques that may result in damage to the coated surface.

3. Cleaning

- g. It is strongly recommended to first test a small, inconspicuous test area to ensure that no colour change or damage arises.
- h. Always remove any kind of dirt as soon as possible.
- i. If, for acceptance of construction work, any loose deposits still remain

despite cleaning during installation, they must be removed with a wet sponge (water).

- j. If it is not possible to clean the surface as described above, use a soft brush or (non-abrasive) cloth and a neutral mild household or neutral car wash detergent, following the supplier's instructions.
- k. After cleaning, rinse the surface thoroughly with fresh water.
- l. Do not use steel wool, scrapers, sandpaper, scouring liquids or powders as they will permanently scratch the coated surface.
- m. Do not use strong solvents alkaline or acid cleaners.
- n. The use of hard water for cleaning is not recommended due to its mineral content, as it can cause staining of the coating and may lead to long-term failures.
- o. Do not clean the surface if it is hot due to being in direct sunlight.

4. Cleaning of Special Finishes

- p. Metallic coatings contain mica or metallic flakes. Special care must be taken when cleaning this kind of special finish. For routine cleaning, periodic washing with mild detergent is recommended. Any cleaning or repair by rubbing or polishing must be avoided as it may result in discolouration, colour change and irreversible damage to the coating.
- q. Matt finishes: for cleaning, washing with a mild detergent is recommended. If repair or restoration is required, rubbing or polishing should be avoided since the gloss level of the coating could be affected.

5. Cleaning Frequency

- r. As a general rule, the coated surface should be cleaned at least once a year in a normal environment. However in areas where pollutants are more prevalent, especially in coastal or industrial areas, a more frequent cleaning programme should be carried out.

Normal environment - Clean every 12 months

Marine and/or industrial environment - Clean every 3 months

Swimming & leisure pools - Clean every 3 months

6. Damage Repair

- s. Depending on the damage, different kinds of repair may be necessary. The coating suppliers must be contacted to find the best solution.

7. Other Recommendations

- t. Cleaning should be carried out by specialised cleaning companies.





AUSTRALIA

Qualicoat Australia

c/o Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing
(AISF)
Mrs. Sharon Campbell
Suite 109, 134-136 Cambridge Street
Collingwood Vic 3066 Australia

Tel: ++61 3 9416 2222
Fax: ++61 3 9416 322721
Email: aisf@aisf.org.au
Web: <http://www.qualicoat.org>



GERMANY

**Verband für die Oberflächenveredelung
von Aluminium e.V. (VOA)**

Laufertormauer 6
90403 Nürnberg

Tel: ++49 911 20 44 41
Fax: ++49 911 22 67 55
E-mail: info@voa.de
Web: www.voa.de



BELGIUM

ESTAL BELGIUM

Mr. S. Meirsschaut
Chemin des Soeurs 7 Nodebais
BE - 1320 Beauvechain

Tel: ++32 473 451 263
E-mail: simonmeirsschaut@yahoo.com



GREECE

AAG

Aluminium Association of Greece
Mr. S. Economacos
41-43 Michalakopoulou str.
GR-115 28 Athens

Tel. ++30 210 72 56 130-2
Fax ++30 210 72 56 133
E-mail: mvgontzas@aluminium.org.gr
Web: www.aluminium.org.gr



CHINA

QUALISINO Limited

Mrs. Jerry Li
Room 1904, 19th Floor, Tung Wai Commercial
Building
109 - 111 Gloucester, Wan Chai
CN - Hong Kong

Tel: +852-21 80 99 55
Fax: +852-21 80 99 56
Email: jerry@qualisino.com
Web: <http://www.qualisino.com>



HUNGARY

AFMSZ

Dr. F. Dömölki
Teréz krt 27
H-1067 Budapest

Tel: ++36 1 239 93 45
Fax: ++36 1 339 01 52
Email: domolkif@hdsnet.hu



FRANCE

ADAL

Mrs. Caroline Colombier
17, rue de l'Amiral Hamelin
FR-75116 Paris

Tel: ++33 1 42 25 26 44
Fax: ++33 1 53 75 02 13
E-mail: colombier@adal.asso.fr
Web: <http://www.adal.asso.fr>



ITALY

Qualital

Mr. R. Boi
Via Privata Ragni 13/15
IT-28062 Cameri (Novara)

Tel: ++39 0321 51 05 78
Fax: ++39 0321 51 79 37
E-mail: boi@qualital.eu
Website: <http://www.qualital.eu>



JAPAN

QUALICOAT JAPAN

c/o JAPAN ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION
Mr. S. Kikuchi
107-0052, 13-13, Akasaka 2-chome
Minato-ku
JP - Tokyo



PORTUGAL

APAL - Associação Portuguesa do Alumínio

Mr. J. Balacó
R. Cons. Luís de Magalhães, 46-1o-B-2
Apartado 287
P-3811-901 Aveiro

Tel: ++351 234 42 22 41
Fax: ++351 234 42 22 41
E-mail: apaluminio@sapo.pt
Web: www.apal.pt



UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Qualicoat (UK & Ireland)

National Metalforming Centre
47 Birmingham Road
West Bromwich
West Midlands B70 6PY

Tel: +44 (0)121 601 6363
Fax: +44 (0)121 601 6399
E-mail: t_siddle@alfed.org.uk
Web: http://www.qualicoatuki.org/



MEXICO

AMELAQ

Mr. Francisco Terrazas
c/o Oxal SA de CV
Francisco I. Madero 146
San Esteban, Naucalpan
Estado de Mexico, 53550

Contact:
Secretary (Juan Lambreton)
E-mail: juangl@valsa.com.mx



SPAIN

ASELAC

Mr. Andres Sarranz
C/ Castelló 115, planta 6º, oficina 608
ES-28006 Madrid

Tel: ++34 91 802 08 78
Fax: ++34 91 564 58 66
E-mail: aselac@aselac-lacados.com
Web: www.aselac-lacados.com



Bahrain



Egypt



Kuwait



Oman



NETHERLANDS

ESTAL Nederland

Mrs. Pauline Meijwaard
Postbus 2600
NL-3430 GA Nieuwegein

Tel: ++31 30 630 03 90
Fax: ++31 30 630 06 89
E-mail: Meijwaard@visem.nl
Web: www.visem.nl



SWITZERLAND

QUALICOAT SCHWEIZ

Mr. J. Schoppig
Postfach 1507
CH-8027 Zürich

Tel: ++41 43 305 09 70
Fax: ++41 43 305 09 98
E-mail: j.schoppig@actreu.ch
Web: www.qualicoat.ch



United Arab Emirates



Saudi Arabia



Syria

MIDDLE EAST

QUALI MIDDLE EAST

Mrs. Loujain Al Mekdad
AL Habtoor Motors Bldg.
Office # 1100B
Sheikh Zayed Rd.
P.O. Box 282071 , Dubai U.A.E.

Tel: ++971 4 314 2025
Fax: ++971 4 314 2026
Email: admin@qualimiddleeast.com
Web: qualimiddleeast.com



POLAND

QUALIPOL

ul. Ksawerow 21
PL-02-656
Warsaw

tel/fax: +48 500 579 089
e-mail: sekretariat@qualipol.pl
web: www.qualipol.pl



TURKEY

AYID Alüminyum Yüzey İşlem Derneği

Mr. T. Uluçak
Semsettin Günaltay Caddesi Serhan Apt.
No:193/5
Erenkoy Kadikoy
TR-34738 Istanbul

Tel: ++90 216 386 16 85
Fax: ++90 216 359 19 42
E-Mail: aydem@superonline.com



QUALICOAT

c/o AC Fiduciaire SA
Certification Body
Accreditation number SCES 045
Tödistrasse 47
CH-8002 Zurich

Phone: +41 43 305 09 70

Fax: +41 43 305 09 98

E-mail: info@qualicoat.net



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