

## Cleaning Recommendations

Alumanate's painted aluminum composite panels are designed for premium aesthetic appearance and minimum maintenance. We recommend clearing the painted surface to maintain the best appearance.

The amount and frequency of dirt accumulation of Alumanate panels depends, among other factors, upon the building's geographic location, the panel location on the structure, local soil type, weather, pollution and air conditions.

Do not use steel wool, abrasives or anything likely to abrade the painted surface. Some cleaning chemicals can damage the surface. If unsure, test the application method and cleaning agents in an inconspicuous area. Start with the mildest cleaning methods first and, only if necessary, proceed to more stringent methods.

If dirt and stains are water soluble, such as soil, soot or particles, then a water rinse is the alternative least likely to degrade the painted surface. Do not, however, use mechanical pressure washers. For areas of heavier or more tenacious dirt deposit, especially those near the grade level, a mild solution of detergent (5%) diluted with warm water is the best cleaning alternative. As with automobiles, streaking will be minimized if Alumanate panels are cleaned on a mild, overcast day or in the shade.

More frequent cleaning with water or mild detergents is preferable to using harsher or concentrated cleaning solutions, or abrasive methods at less frequent intervals. Mild detergents are those which do not irritate bare hands. It is preferred that Alumanate panels be cleaned from bottom to top (opposite that of glass) so streaking and standing solutions be minimized.

In cases where Alumanate panels are soiled with non-water soluble dirt such as tar, oil, paint, graffiti or sealant material, solvents may be the only effective cleaning alternative. Common solvent categories are:

### Alcohols

- Denatured Alcohol or Ethanol
- Isopropyl or Rubbing Alcohol
- Methanol

## Cleaning Recommendations - Continued

### Petroleum Solvents

- Naptha Spirits
- Mineral Spirits
- Turpentine

### Aromatic Solvents

- Xylene
- Toluene

### Ketones, Esters

- MEK (methyl ethyl ketone)
- MIBK (methyl isobutyl ketone)
- Ethyl Acetate or Nail Polish Remover
- Lacquer Thinner

### Acetone and Paint Removers

- DO NOT USE ON PAINTED ALUMANATE SURFACES

In all cases of above cleaner use, personal safety and protection is the top priority. Use appropriate skin and eye protection to prevent chemical irritation or burns. Test any cleaner in an inconspicuous area prior to general application. Be aware that mixing certain chemicals may produce exothermic reactions (explosions) or toxic gas (chlorine bleach and ammonia can produce an extremely dangerous gas). Use mild or non-abrasive applicators.

Hydrochloric acid (10% muriatic acid) diluted with ten parts water may be useful in removing rust stains or dried mortar or concrete. However, contact of acid or alkalis with aluminum can quickly destroy the metal.

Mildew removal can be accomplished with:

- 1/3 cup detergent
- 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate (TSP)
- 1 quart sodium hypochlorite, 5% solution (liquid bleach)

Apply and rinse immediately with clear water.

Be cautious of pooling of cleaners on any horizontal joint or surface. Remember that hot panels will speed up any chemical reaction and may cause damage to paint more quickly. Don't apply cleaners to an area that you cannot rinse prior to the chemical drying. Be aware of your surroundings and always think of safety first.

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