



Technical Bulletin

Cleaning recommendations for Alcoa Architectural Products aluminum panels

Alcoa's painted aluminum panels, be they Profiled (V-Beam siding as an example) or Aluminum Composite Material (Reynobond®), all come with similar organic coatings designed for premium esthetic appearance and minimum maintenance. We do recommend cleaning the painted surface to maintain the best appearance. For convenience, all panels will be referred to as Reynobond® throughout.

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

Don't 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 a mechanical pressure washer. 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 Reynobond® is 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 Reynobond® be cleaned from bottom to top (opposite that of glass) so that streaking and standing solutions be minimized.

In cases where Reynobond® 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



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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 Reynobond®

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 acids or alkalis with bare 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 hypochloride, 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: your safety and that of persons using the building.