

# WESCOM

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### CARE AND CLEANING OF ALUMINUM

#### 1. INSTALLATION CARE:

During installation all aluminum materials must be protected from building fall-out, this includes plaster, mortar, dust, paint, welding splatter, and the like. Keeping tools, ladders, and scaffolding from resting or sliding on finished surfaces results in fewer scratches, dents, etc.

Splashes from wet plaster and wet mortar should be removed immediately and the soiled area washed down with clean water to prevent staining. Solvent cleaner such as varsol should be used to remove oil base paints before they dry. Muriatic acid (hydrochloric) used for cleaning brick must also be prevented from coming in contact with aluminum, should this happen the acid should be immediately rinsed off with clean water. If welding in the vicinity of aluminum materials is necessary, take measures to protect surfaces and prevent splatter contact from occurring. Remove pressure sensitive tapes from finished aluminum surfaces, as it tends to bake on after exposure to the sun and elements, making its removal very difficult. Aluminum is compatible with some stainless steel alloys, chromium, zinc and small areas of white bronze. Where permanent contact with other metals cannot be avoided, the risk of galvanic corrosion can be greatly reduced by painting the other metal at the contact area with a single coat of heavy-bodied bituminous paint. When dissimilar metal cannot be painted, the aluminum may be given the insulating treatment. As an alternative, a strip of plastic or similar insulator may be used in place of paint.

Until the building construction is completed, protective measures should be practiced to ensure a top quality installation is the result and satisfaction is guaranteed to the owner.

#### 2. GENERAL CLEANING TIPS AND CARE AFTER INSTALLATION:

1. The new building is occupied and to keep the exterior attractive the main components must be routinely cleaned and detailed. The aluminum window entrance framing should be included in the maintenance program and can be conveniently combined with other maintenance items such as glass cleaning. The frequency of cleaning is determined by the local atmospheric conditions, aluminum installed in areas that have a unique combination of smog, dust, temperature variation and heavy condensation, require much more frequent cleaning than aluminum which is frequently cleaned by rainfall.

Several pitfalls should be avoided in cleaning architectural aluminum. One is the human tendency for cleaning people to use aggressive cleaners which work much more rapidly in place of mild cleaners. The other is the tendency of people accustomed to scouring brass, bronze, stainless steel with harsh cleaners to continue to do the same unnecessarily with aluminum. Still another is the belief that costs can be reduced by substituting an occasional application of heavy duty cleaner in place of mild cleaners used more frequently.

2. Aluminum that must be kept spotless and therefore frequently cleaned, should be cleaned with a mild cleaner. Mild cleaners include most soaps and detergents that can be applied with bare hands and commercially prepared non-etching cleaners. Mild cleaners may be used frequently as required on all aluminum surfaces.

The soaps and detergents are added to water and applied with a soft cloth sponge, afterwards they are removed with a clear water rinse. The non-etch cleaners must be applied as directed by the manufacturer, they should not be used on sun-heated metal or on cold days or streaking may result. Cleaners should not be mixed and should not be permitted to remain on the metal longer than specified. Non-etched cleaners are removed with clear water. Should the mild cleaners fail to provide satisfactory cleaning, solvent and emulsion cleaners may be tried.

3. Solvent and emulsion cleaners are particularly effective on oil and grease stains and some types of soils. Some solvents and emulsions containing these solvents have the ability to soften and dissolve certain paints and clear organic coatings (lacquers) used on aluminum. To preclude finish damage, all solvent and emulsion cleaners should be tested on a small, unobtrusive spot. Cleaners are generally applied with a clean cloth and removed the same way. Remaining residue can be washed off with mild soap and water.

Both mild cleaners and solvent and emulsion cleaners are mild in their action, they will remove dirt and some stains. They have little effect on weathered aluminum and heavy grime encrustation, with such conditions more aggressive cleaners are needed.

4. Abrasive cleaners may contain water, oil, wax, silicones, soap, acids or alkalines in addition to the abrasive from which this class of cleaners obtains its name. They are produced and distributed under a variety of names: polish, cleaner, cleaner-polish, wax cleaner, wax-polish, metal brightner, scouring powder and so on. As the effect these cleaners have on aluminum varies with compounds and the aluminum's finish, it is important that an abrasive cleaner be spot tested carefully before it is used.

Products	Manufacturer or Distributer	Typical Product
Clear Methacrylate Type Lacquers	DuPont Company of Canada Ltd.	DuPont 1234
Wetting Agents	Allied Chemical Canada Ltd.	Nacconal
Mild Soap	Procter & Gamble Company of Canada Ltd.	Ivory
Detergents	Procter & Gamble Company of Canada Ltd.	Tide
	Lever Brothers Ltd.	
Solvent Cleaners	Imperial Oil Ltd.	Varsol
	Shell Oil	
	B.W. Deane & Co.	
Waxes, Liquid	S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd.	Glo-Coat
Wax-Base Polish	S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd.	Pride
	Simoniz Co. Ltd.	
Non-Wax Base Polish	Lund Aviation (Canada) Ltd.	Nevr-Dull
Cleaners		
Mild Abrasive Cleaners	Purex Corporation Ltd.	Old Dutch Cleanser
	Bon-Ami Ltd.	
Abrasive Impregnated Pads	Minnesota Mining & Mfg. of Canada Ltd.	Scotch-brite 417, 418
Acid Etch Chemical Cleaners	B.W. Deane & Co.	Allbrite
	Oaklite Products of Canada Ltd.	
Non-Etching Chemical Cleaners	Oaklite Products of Canada Ltd.	Oaklite Nos. 61A, 80A, 164
Chemical Conversion Solutions	Amchem Products Inc.	Alodine
	The McArthur Chemical Company Ltd.	1000, 1500
	Parker Rust Proof Co. of Canada Ltd.	P1164P
Non-Flammable	B.W. Deane & Co.	Turco 3535
Paint Removers		
Viscous Paint Strippers	Deversey Corporation (Canada) Ltd.	Diverstrip
	Canadian Permag Products Ltd.	P1164P
Caulking Compounds	Drummond McCall Co. Ltd.	Alumilastic
	Tremco Mfg. Company Canada Ltd.	
	Minnesota Mining & Mfg. of Canada Ltd.	