

ALUCOBOND Cleaning Guide

Regular cleaning not only maintains the aesthetic and representative finish, but also preserves their value and service life by removing dirt and aggressive deposits that are not washed away by rainwater.

A regular inspection of ALUCOBOND installations should be undertaken. Items to be checked include, but are not limited to:

- a) Dirt - any accumulation of dirt should be washed from the surface of the panels.
- b) Scratches and Dents - these need to be identified and repaired.
- c) Joint Sealant - identify any failures and repair.

When scheduling the actual cleaning of the external cladding, this should coincide with other cleaning operations i.e. glass and painted aluminium components.

It is recommended in environments with low salt, low pollutant and urban areas cleaning should take place at a minimum of every twelve months.

In areas where salts, pollutants and high corrosivity levels are prevalent, e.g. beachfront houses or industrial areas, it is recommended a cleaning program should be carried out more frequently at a minimum of every six months.

Sheltered areas can have a higher risk of coating degradation as wind-blown salt and other debris or pollutants may adhere to the surface which cannot be removed when it rains. These areas may require more frequent cleaning.

Conditions	Example Environments	Recommended Minimum Cleaning
Mild	Arid, dry, urban, inland, city	Every 12 months
	Light industrial, geothermal (>500m from source) and inland coastal (mild sea spray zone)	Every 6 months
Severe	Sea shore (medium sea spray zone), offshore Islands and or geothermal (<500m from source)	Every 6 months
	Sea shore (high sea spray zone e.g. surf), offshore Islands	Every 6 months
	Heavy industrial, airport, transport hubs	Every 6 months
General Interior	Dry interiors (homes, offices, shops)	Every 12 months
	Minor condensation (warehouses, sports halls)	Every 12 months
Moderate Interior	High moisture (dairy and food processing plants, breweries, and commercial laundries)	Every 6 months
	Significant contamination (swimming pools)	Every 6 months

Key Notes for Cleaning ALUCOBOND Panels:

- Avoid extreme panel temperature when it is time to clean the coated surface. Cleaning under higher temperature may result in streaking or staining.
- If possible, cleaning should be done on the shaded side of the building first under a moderate temperature.
- Read & observe guidelines within Safety Data Sheets for cleaning products being used. Wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Always start with a freshwater rinse and progress to the other cleaning methods from mildest to strongest as needed.
- Do not use strong organic solvents, such as MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone), MIBK (Methyl Iso butyl Ketone), Triclene and paint thinner.
- Do not use highly alkaline cleaning agents such as potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, caustic soda, any strong acidic products, or highly abrasive cleaning agents such as Ajax, Jif.
- Do not use wire brushes, steel wool, sandpaper, cleaning compound that are abrasives, or other similar cleaning tools. Instead use a sponge, soft cloth, or soft bristle brush to clean the panels. Make sure that the cleaning cloths and brush are grit free.
- For light surface dirt/soiling, a mild detergent agent (pH5-10) may be used. As a product example, refer [https://media.snell.co.nz/PDF/Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid Lemon msds.pdf](https://media.snell.co.nz/PDF/Sunlight_Dishwashing_Liquid_Lemon_msds.pdf)
- Avoid drips and splashes during cleaning. Remove rundown as quickly as possible
- Construction soils, including runoff from concrete and mortar can stain painted metal surfaces and should be removed as soon as possible.
- Do not allow cleaning solutions to remain on panel surface for extended periods of time. Failure to follow this procedure may cause damage to the gloss of the panel.

Cleaning process

The methods below are of practical cleaning practices suitable for Lumiflon-based fluoropolymer coating. The detergent cleaner called Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid or one with a similar PH level is readily available. Sharpshooter is a versatile cleaner manufactured by 3M

https://www.3mnz.co.nz/3M/en_NZ/p/d/v000075386/

During and Post Construction

It is very difficult to remove sealant and machine oils after hardening. During construction, the protective film should remain as long as possible (max. 6 months), to protect the coated surface from stains caused by sealant and machine oils. If adhered, these stains should be removed as early as possible before hardening, with suitable detergents. The cleaner containing abrasives cannot be used. Avoid excessive rubbing, as it may alter the surface gloss.

Light Surface Dirt/Soiling

- Firstly, try a water rinse using a soft sponge with modest pressure to remove the dirt. If the soiling remains after drying, then dilute to 1-5 (i.e. 50-250ml cleaning liquid PH 5-10 to 5 litres of water).
- Spread the solution around surface. Use a soft towel or sponge. Wait for about 1 minute, then rinse with fresh water. Dry with squeegee and finally wipe the surface with a wet towel soaked in clean water. Repeat if necessary.

Medium to Heavy Surface Dirt/Soiling

- Use undiluted Sharpshooter (alkali (pH12) and/or mild detergent (pH5-10). A clean water rinse is recommended after using these cleaners.
- If using undiluted Sharpshooter, trial an inconspicuous area first.
- Apply the solution on the panel with a sprayer, towel, or sponge. Slight rubbing is required to remove heavy surface soiling. Use a soft towel.
- Rinse with a wet cloth soaked in clean water. Repeat if necessary.

Removal of Graffiti

Alucobond would rather not advocate using solvents to remove graffiti, nevertheless the only other option will be to replace the panels which will be expensive and also inconvenient for property owners/residents. Please contact The Building Agency info@buildingagency.co.nz for further assistance.

It is highly recommended that a test area should be carried out on a small area first to make sure there is no damage to the panel finish. *Suitable solvents are listed below or refer CANTAC Citrus Cleaner Technical Data Sheet [CANTAC Citrus Cleaner TDS.pdf \(glueguru.co.nz\)](#)

- Remove any coarse particles of dirt with water to prevent the surface from being scratched during the following cleaning steps. Then wipe the panels dry.
- Remove the graffiti by means of solvent impregnated cotton pads or use CANTEC Citrus Cleaner applied with cotton pads or a soft towel .
- The solvent or citrus cleaner is applied to the surface until the dyes of the graffiti have begun to dissolve.
- Remove the graffiti mixture, solvent or citrus cleaner by using dry cotton pads or a soft towel. The cotton-pads should change frequently.
- Wipe the surface again with clean cotton pads or a soft cloth lightly impregnated with solvent or citrus cleaner until the residual is removed.
- Allow the ALUCOBOND lacquer to dry for at least 24 hours, irrespective of the result of the cleaning operation. The benefit of this period of drying time is that the service life of the lacquer is maintained.
- If there are still signs of graffiti after this process, repeat the process.
- Finally, if required, clean the dry surface using a car polish cutting compound, test a small area first.

After cleaning it may be that there are still shadows of the graffiti left on the lacquered ALUCOBOND surface. This phenomenon is the result of the migratory organic dyes contained in the spray colours.

*Suitable Solvents

(The recommended solvents are flammable. Use in well-ventilated areas and follow the manufacturers health and safety guidelines).

- Ethyl-alcohol (methylates spirt)
- Methyl-glycol-acetate
- Hexane (naphtha + solvent naphtha)

CANTAC Citrus Cleaner Technical Data Sheet refer [CANTAC Citrus Cleaner TDS.pdf \(glueguru.co.nz\)](#)

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