

DONALCO

CARE & MAINTENANCE



ALUMINIUM MAINTENANCE

Both Painted and anodized finished surfaces should be regularly washed down with water to maintain their attractive appearance. The aluminium frames of windows and doors should be washed whenever the glass is cleaned.

CLEANING

Where regular maintenance does not remove all the dirt, which may be adhering to the surface, the following procedure should be followed.

Painted Finish

Wash with warm water and non-abrasive kitchen detergent, using a soft cloth or a Soft bristle brush. To prevent shiny spots do not press too hard and to minimize streaking wash from the bottom up. Rinse with fresh clean water immediately afterwards to remove all traces of detergent.

PRECAUTIONS

1. To avoid the possibility of corrosion, only aluminium, stainless steel or galvanized steel fasteners should be used for fixing aluminium.
2. In a marine environment, stainless steel fasteners only must be used.
3. Water running off copper or lead roofing or flashing materials may have a corrosive effect on aluminium. Avoid installing copper or copper alloy products if water may run from them on to aluminium.
4. Insulate and protect aluminium from unseasoned timber as the sap can cause stains, which are almost impossible to remove.
5. Aluminium products should be isolated from permanent contact with mortar as corrosion can occur. Caulking gaps between frame and wall or aluminium angle trims are preferred for contact rather than the frame member.

FLEXIBLE PROFILES

Flexible profiles such as PVC, Santoprene, EPDM etc. are used for glazing gaskets and weather seals.

The frequency of washing is determined by the desired appearance of the structure and by the local environment but should occur at least every six months. Areas close to the sea or subject to industrial fall-out and having limited rainfall require more frequent attention.

Anodised Finish

Washing as recommended for paint finish should first be tried. If this does not remove all dirt build-up, a solvent cleaner such as kerosene, turpentine or white spirit may be used. Failing this, mild oil-based abrasive car cleaner or mild soap-based abrasive bath cleaner can be used. Thoroughly rinse and dry with a soft cloth after cleaning. A coat of liquid wax may be used to enhance the gloss finish.

Do not use highly caustic or highly abrasive cleaners on any type of finish. Do not use solvent cleaners on paint finishes.

A smear coating of a lubricating solution will assist initial installation such as Dow Corning Emulsion No 8 and weather seals should be treated with the same solution in service – say, on a six monthly basis.