
Cleaning Recommendations

Introduction

This document is intended as a guide to provide architects, installers, building managers and owners with recommendations for the proper care and maintenance of aluminum composite material (ACM) panels manufactured by Laminators Incorporated. Routine cleaning should be performed to prolong the appearance of the panels. The frequency of cleaning may vary depending on the geographic area, environment, conditions, and location of the building. Typically, the more frequently the panels are cleaned, the easier they are to maintain.

Cleaning Painted ACM Panels

Dirt and Contaminants:

Start by rinsing panels with fresh water to reduce any residue build up on the surface. If residue is still present, mix a solution of mild detergent in fresh warm water. Detergents with less than 0.5% phosphate (such as Tide®) can be mixed at approximately one cup per five gallons of warm water. Use a clean sponge or soft cloth to clean the affected area then immediately rinse with fresh water, repeating as necessary. Take care not to scratch the painted surface.

Mold and Mildew:

Should mold and mildew start to grow on the panels, mix one cup of mild soap (such as Ivory®) and one gallon of bleach into five gallons of warm water. Use a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush to clean the affected area then immediately rinse with fresh water, repeating as necessary. Take care not to scratch the painted surface. Additionally, protect eyes, skin, etc., as well as surrounding areas that may be sensitive to bleach.

Grease, Oil, Graffiti, etc.:

If a mild detergent solution (as referenced above) is not effective in cleaning the area, small areas can be cleaned with commercial kitchen cleaners (such as Fantastik®), while larger areas may require a commercial grease remover (such as Simple Green®) mixed with water.

Cleaning Anodized ACM Panels

Like painted aluminum panels, anodized panels should also be cleaned a mild detergent or soap using a clean sponge, soft cloth, or soft bristle brush. For heavier dirt and debris, a mild abrasive pad may be used.

Precautions

- Test all cleaning methods in a small inconspicuous area before cleaning on a larger scale.
- It is best to clean panels in small areas at a time starting from top to bottom, on a mild, cloudy day to prevent quick drying and streaking.
- Solvents, aggressive alkaline, acid-based cleaners, and high phosphate containing detergents should be avoided as they may damage the paint finish.
- Never mix different cleaners together.
- Do not use stiff bristle or wire brushes as they will scratch the paint finish.

Additional information can be found in the latest version of AAMA 609 & 610 Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Architecturally Finished Aluminum as published by FGIA which is available for purchase at www.fgiaonline.org.

For questions, please call 800.523.2347 or visit www.LaminatorsInc.com.

Go beyond the panel... and go to the next level!