



1. Instructions for the maintenance of powder-coated outdoor profiles

The instructions for maintenance are mainly determined by the environmental circumstances, the way of exposure and the requirements related to the preservation of the original coating aspect.

1.1 Frequency

Rural environment:

Once or twice a year for surfaces that are regularly cleaned by rain.

Urban, industrial or maritime environment:

Minimal each 6 months for surfaces exposed to rain.

Minimal each 3 months for parts that are not rinsed in a natural way.

For optimal preservation of the initial coating aspect (e.g. at the entrance of a building) a monthly cleaning is necessary.

1.2 Method of cleaning

Surfaces with limited filthiness:

Clean with a soft sponge and lukewarm water with some neutral detergent, rinse with clean water and dry with a soft adsorbing cloth.

Recommended products: all liquid non-abrasive household detergents within pH range 6-8.

Surfaces with strong filthiness:

If lukewarm water with detergent is not efficient, one should use special cleaning agents.

Recommended products:

- white spirit or petroleum ether without aromatic hydrocarbons
- specially developed cleaning agents, according to the prescriptions of the manufacturer

Treatment for a long-term protection:

Products that leave a thin protective water-repellent film on the coating surface can also have a cleaning effect. There are many good commercial products available, but it is indispensable to follow the prescriptions of the manufacturer.



1.3 Points of attention during the maintenance

The following products are not suited for cleaning:

- aggressive products as detergents for dishwashers
- strong acids (pH <6)
- strong alkalines (pH >8)
- bleaching water
- all polar solvents, such as methylene chloride, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, turpentine
- thinners and aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene, xylene, toluene
- peroxides

Don't use rough or abrasive means, such as abrasive sponges, sandpaper, ...

Don't use high-pressure washers.

Avoid to clean hot surfaces (e.g. heated-up by the sun).

During the building phase, the coating can be seriously affected by cement and mortar water. Reminders of these products need to be removed as soon as possible with plenty of water.

1.4 Maintenance of structured coatings

One has to take into account that outdoor profiles coated with structured coatings, have a rougher surface than those with smooth coatings. As a matter of fact, dirt coming from dust and sand will be more easily fixed onto the rough surface. Cleaning of such coatings need to be done more frequently, and with adapted cleaning material (e.g. a soft brush instead of a sponge), in order to remove the dirt out of the pores of the rough surface.