

Cleaning and maintenance

Soil and dirt on aluminum surface will increase corrosion and discolouration, hence cleaning and care of aluminum are important to preserve the anodized aluminum surface in the best possible way.

The cleaning after installation and the periodic maintenance cleaning requires a great deal of experience and expertise and should only be carried out by designated facade cleaning companies. HAI recommend that cleaning process must be performed by an accredited member and with approved product by “Gütegemeinschaft Reinigung von Fassaden” (GRM).

Only products that do not damage the anodized surface must be used for cleaning. For information about tested cleaning products, please refer to the website of GRM (www.grm-online.de). HAI must emphasise the warning that alkaline cleaning products, such as, without limitation, soda-containing products and strong detergents, must not be used. Acids such as, without limitation, hydrochloric acid and phosphoric acid-containing products should not be used either, as this causes the anodizing layer to disappear and makes irreparable damages. Aluminum, including aluminum oxide, is ‘dissolved’ at low pH (<5) or high pH (>8). Abrasive or scouring materials - such as steel wool, steel wire brushes, sandpaper and hard polishing agents - will also damage the anodizing layer. For applicable cleaning products, please contact HAI.

The cleaning frequency of anodized aluminum in buildings and other structures must be performed according to a set schedule. This schedule is dependent on the atmosphere to which the aluminum is exposed or the extent of natural cleaning by rainfall. The following can be used as a guideline: Under normal circumstances and with natural cleaning through rainfall, it is enough to clean the aluminum once a year with a cloth or brush and plenty of water. A neutral synthetic detergent can be used if necessary and then left to dry. However, cleaning should be performed twice a year in the case of an industrial environment or in the absence of natural cleaning through rainfall.

The frequency of cleaning, the order of cleaning and the detergents to be used depend on how dirty the aluminum is. This needs to be assessed per site, per building and sometimes per facade. For an exact description, please refer to the GRM.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

This note is a supplement to the terms of sale and delivery which always apply

