

ALUMI-TEC™



BLACKHAWK METALS

Cleaning Recommendations

Alumi-Tec painted aluminum composite panels are designed for premium aesthetic appearance and minimum maintenance. We recommend cleaning the painted surface to maintain the best appearance.

The amount and frequency of dirt accumulation on Alumi-Tec panels depends upon the building's geographic location, the panel location on the structure, local soil type, weather, pollution and air conditions.

Do not use steel wool, abrasives or anything likely to abrade the painted surface. In addition, cleaning chemicals can damage the surface. If unsure, test the application method and cleaning agents in an inconspicuous area. Start with the mildest cleaning methods first and, only if necessary, proceed to more stringent methods.

If the dirt or stains are water soluble, such as soil, soot or particles, then a water rinse is the best solution because it's the least likely to degrade the painted surface. Do not, use mechanical pressure washers. For areas with a heavier dirt deposit, especially those near the grade level, a mild solution of soap detergent (5%) diluted with warm water will work best. As with automobiles, streaking will be minimized if Alumi-Tec panels are cleaned on an overcast day or in the shade.

More frequent cleaning with water or mild soap detergents is preferable to using harsher or concentrated cleaning solutions, or abrasive methods at less frequent intervals. Mild detergents are those which do not irritate bare hands. It is preferred that Alumi-Tec panels be cleaned from bottom to top (opposite that of glass) so streaking will be minimized.

Do not clean the hot surface (when the temperature exceeds 100° F for it is harm to the paint baking of the panel surface if the water content is volatilized too quickly

In cases where Alumi-Tec panels are soiled with non-water-soluble dirt such as tar, oil, paint, graffiti or sealant material, solvents may be the only effective cleaning alternative. Common solvent categories are:

Alcohols

- Denatured Alcohol or Ethanol
- Isopropyl or Rubbing Alcohol
- Methanol

Petroleum Solvents

- Naphtha Spirits
- Mineral Spirits
- Turpentine

Aromatic Solvents

- Xylene
- Toluene Ketones, Esters
- MEK (methyl ethyl ketone)
- MIBK (methyl isobutyl ketone)
- Ethyl Acetate or Nail Polish Remover
- Lacquer Thinner

Acetone and Paint Removers

- DO NOT USE ON PAINTED ALUMINATE SURFACES

In all cases of above cleaner use, personal safety and protection is the top priority. Use appropriate skin and eye protection to prevent chemical irritation or burns. Test any cleaner in an inconspicuous area prior to general application. Be aware that mixing certain chemicals may produce exothermic reactions (explosions) or toxic gas (chlorine bleach and ammonia can produce an extremely dangerous gas). Use mild or non-abrasive applicators.

Hydrochloric acid (10% muriatic acid) diluted with ten parts water may be useful in removing rust stains, dried mortar or concrete. However, contact of acid or alkalis with are aluminum can quickly destroy the metal.

Mildew removal can be accomplished with:

- 1/3 cup detergent
- 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate (TSP)
- 1 quart sodium hypochlorite, 5% solution (liquid bleach)

Apply and rinse immediately with clear water.

Be cautious of pooling of cleaners on any horizontal joint or surface. Remember that hot panels will speed up any chemical reaction and may cause damage to paint more quickly. Don't apply cleaners to an area that you cannot rinse prior to the chemical drying. Beware of your surrounds and always think of safety first.