



MAINTENANCE

**This Guide aims
to help you care
for your
Aluminium/Steel
Windows and
Doors**

CARING FOR YOUR WINDOWS/DOORS

A little care will help retain the original condition of the aluminium/steel windows and doors in your home. A good general rule is that aluminium/steel windows and doors should be washed to remove dirt deposits as often as it is necessary to wash the windows and doors.

Aluminium/Steel windows/doors require only minimal maintenance; however, the finish may deteriorate if dirt, which collects on the surface, is allowed to remain unwashed over a period of time.

Dirt absorbs moisture present in the atmosphere and moisture contains salt when near the ocean and other impurities in industrial areas, a combination of which can cause deterioration of almost any surface finish.

In rural areas where normally there is very little contaminated moisture, you may not need to clean your aluminium/steel windows and doors more than every six months.

In industrial and coastal areas, washing at intervals of one to three months may be required, or even more frequently in locations close to the ocean or heavily polluted industrial areas. This is particularly so where the windows or other products are sheltered from the washing effects of rain.

To clean aluminium/steel use mild the mildest treatment you can which produces satisfactory results. Start with warm water and soap or mild detergent and a soft bristle brush.

NEVER use harsh liquid chemicals, abrasive cleaners or steel wool as they may scratch or damage the surface finish.

Your cleaning routines relate to your location. We recommend:

Coastal	Every three months
Geothermal	Every three months
Industrial	Every three months
Rural	Twice a year
Residential	Twice a year

SUNSCREENS

It is important to note that sunscreens containing zinc or titanium oxides will damage your joinery over time.

It is recommended that joinery which has come into contact with sunscreen, whether during construction or in general, is cleaned with soapy water and then rinsed clean immediately.

POINTS TO NOTE

Proper drainage is important to extend the lifetime of your windows and doors. Remove any debris clogging drain holes and ensure sliding door tracks are clean and free of debris.

Reduce condensation by removing or limiting moisture sources and improving ventilation. Excessive moisture can reduce performance and cause permanent damage.

WHAT TO AVOID

Refrain from using solvent cleaners as they can damage the powdercoating on your windows and doors.

Common solvents such as petrol, acetates, thinners and Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) are very damaging as is Jif.

Highly acidic, alkali and many common house solvents or alcohol-based cleaners are not recommended.

GUIDELINES FOR GLASS CLEANING

It is recommended that glass be protected from contamination caused by building materials and methods during construction, as this will greatly simplify the glass-cleaning task at the end of the project. If the glass is not protected during construction, then the glass and frames should be cleaned frequently during construction.

Construction dust leached from concrete and rusting from steel can contribute to the formation of mild chemicals, which may stain or otherwise damage the glass.

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To avoid scratching and marking of the glass surface, glass should only be cleaned using cleaning materials which are free of grit and debris. Only detergents and cleaning solutions which are recommended for cleaning glass should be used. Mild detergents are preferable.

Extra care is necessary where high performance and special products such as self-cleaning and reflective glasses are installed. The coated surface can be susceptible to stains and scratches and therefore requires vigilance during the full construction process and the use of specific cleaning methods.

Temporary screens should be installed if welding, sandblasting, floor sanding, cuffing or other potentially damaging construction practices takes place near the glass.

Glass installations which are adjacent to concrete (eg concrete slab floors) require extra care and cleaning due to the abrasive nature of concrete dust, all tradesmen should be advised to be aware of damaging glass and windows and to leave in place any materials protecting the window or glass.

Blades or scrapers have been known to dislodge 'pickup' from the glass surface. A soft cloth, which will not dislodge 'pickup', should be used.

TOUGHENED GLASS

'Pickup' is a deposit of very small particles of glass which are fused to the glass surface. A cleaning method which does not dislodge these particles should be employed otherwise scratching of the glass surface may result.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not use cleaners that contain hydrofluoric or phosphoric acid as they are corrosive to the glass surface.

Do not clean the glass when the glass is hot or in direct sunlight as this can cause extreme temperature changes which may lead to thermal fracture of the glass (ie do not direct hot or cold water onto glass).

Do not allow cleaning solutions to contact the edges of laminated glass or insulating glass units.

Do not store or place other material in contact with the glass (this can damage the glass or create a heat trap leading to thermal breakage).

Abrasive cleaners, powder-based cleaners, scouring pads or other harsh material should not be used to clean windows or other glass products. Some tapes or adhesives can stain or damage glass surfaces. Avoid using such materials unless they are known to be easily removed.

Please avoid washing your hardware with household cleaning sprays as they can be too aggressive and cause damage.

Paint spots have traditionally been removed using a sharp razor blade. The use of a blade can in some cases cause damage to the glass.

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Also please avoid oiling key locks as this can damage the hardware.

IF DAMAGE OCCURS

If glass is damaged or broken on site, ensure that experienced glaziers are engaged to rectify the situation. Glass can be a safety hazard if not handled properly.



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