

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Recommended Guidelines for PROBOND® Aluminium Cladding Material on Construction & Cladding Applications

To achieve maximum protection of PROBOND® aluminium cladding materials when used in construction and cladding applications, to keep the product in premium condition and preserve their value and service life, the following guidelines MUST be adhered to:

1. REGULAR CLEANING

Regularly clean PROBOND® surfaces every 12 months, as a minimum, and remove dirt and aggressive deposits to maintain the surface durability and aesthetic qualities in construction and cladding situations.

Always remove corrosive substances such as bird droppings and sap stains immediately to avoid permanent marking of the surface.

Regular washing of the whole building should be done either manually with clean water using a soft brush, cloth or sponge, or with a suitable cleaning device, such as a high-pressure cleaner (maximum 50 bar).

Cleaning should take place from top to bottom.

If necessary, a mild cleaning agent (pH 6-7) may be added, up to a maximum of 10%. Observe the manufacturer's cleaning and safety instructions.

Avoid strong solvents which may degrade the surface and ultimately lead to corrosion.

Testing of the cleaning agent on an inconspicuous area to confirm that it is suitable for use and whether the surface appearance is affected is recommended prior to use.

After cleaning, rinse with clean water at a moderate pressure in order to remove cleaning residues. Dry all surfaces with a micro-fibre cloth after washing.

Do not use recycled water as this contains alkaline which may result in staining the paintwork.

Avoid cleaning surfaces heated by the sun to high temperatures, as quick drying may cause blemishes.

2. UNSUITABLE CLEANING AGENTS

Avoid the use of highly alkaline cleaning agents such as potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate or caustic soda, any strong acid products or highly abrasive cleaning agents such as household cleaning products that corrode paint.

3. PROTECTIVE FILM

The protective film on both sides protects the PROBOND® surfaces against damage that can occur during transportation, storage, processing or installation.

It is recommended to remove the protective film from the sheets as soon as possible after installation in order to avoid residues of glue sticking to the surface due to radiation and outdoor exposure.

The protective films and the panel surfaces may not be marked using ink (marker), adhesive tapes or stickers, as the lacquered surfaces could be damaged by solvents or plasticizers.

4. ESSENTIAL TIPS:

- If the building is exposed to salt spray and seaside mist or is situated in an industrial area, the durability will be affected and it is recommended that more frequent cleaning be undertaken following the above steps
- Avoid washing the building during high temperatures
- Prevent accumulated layers of grime and airborne pollution building up on the surface
- Ensure cleaning pads/sponges are grit free to avoid scratching of the coating
- Avoid excessive rubbing

CLEANING METHOD

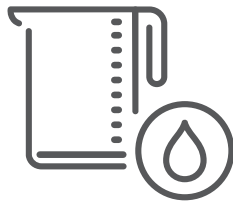
GENERAL CLEANING

Initially wash from top to bottom with clean water using a soft brush, cloth or sponge, or with a suitable cleaning device, such as a high-pressure cleaner (maximum 50 bar).

If any stains remain after the panel is dry, use a neutral detergent or mild household cleaner diluted in water.

TYPICAL CLEANING PROCEDURE:

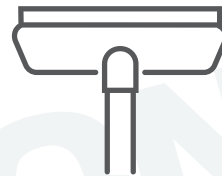
1. Dilute detergent up to 5% with water.
2. Apply solution to the PROBOND® surface by spraying or with a soft brush, cloth or sponge.



3. Leave for 1 minute.



4. Dry with a squeegee and wipe away any remaining solution with a soft cloth and clean water.



STUBBORN STAINS

Cleaners such as Windex or Sharpshooter are suitable for use on stubborn stains.

1. Apply cleaner to the PROBOND® surface by spraying or with a soft brush, cloth or sponge.
2. Rinse with a soft cloth and clean water.



Ensure Metallic colours particularly are rinsed well after using cleaners as any residue left on the surface may result in colour change and gloss level reduction.

PRIOR TESTING:

- Testing of detergent and cleaners on an inconspicuous area to confirm that it is suitable for use is recommended prior to use.
- Generally strong acid and alkali may cause gloss change, colour change or swelling of coating film.
- Do not use cleaners that contain abrasives.
- Do not use strong solvents or paint thinners.

REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI

As a general rule, the following cleaning steps will enable you to remove graffiti from PROBOND® fluoropolymer surfaces.

Preferably, test a small area prior to use:

1. Remove any coarse particles of dirt with water to prevent the surface from being scratched during cleaning. Wipe the panels dry.
2. Apply solvent to the graffiti using cellulose wadding soaked in the solvent. Rub the solvent in until graffiti has largely been dissolved and can no longer be recognized in its original appearance.
3. Remove the mixture of lacquer and solvent using dry, cellulose wadding. Renew the cellulose wadding, if required.
4. Clean the surface again using clean, cellulose wadding moistened with a small amount of solvent until any remaining lacquer has been removed.
5. The PROBOND® coating then needs to regenerate for at least 24 hours, independent of the cleaning result reached. Owing to the absorption of solvent, the PROBOND® coating is swollen and in this state it is sensitive to mechanical stress. The swelling is reversible and has no influence on the long-term stability of the lacquer coating.
6. If there is any remaining graffiti, repeat steps 2–4, but not until the lacquered coating has regenerated.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

After cleaning, traces or shaded parts of the former graffiti are possibly still visible on the PROBOND® coating. This appearance is caused by organic dyes that can be in spray paint and are slightly susceptible to migration. Therefore, cleaning should take place as soon as possible to prevent the spray paint from migrating.

According to experience, however, these dyes are only slightly light-fast; subsequently, the dye susceptible to migration is altered and decomposed by solar radiation, thus causing the shading effect to disappear.

Large areas of graffiti sometimes lead to producing considerable amounts of cellulose wadding containing residues of solvent and paint. Dispose of large amounts properly according to national waste guidelines.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Do not smoke under any circumstances near the solvents or when working with them.
- Ensure there is good ventilation when working with solvents. Solvent vapors can accumulate where airflow is restricted, such as pedestrian subways.
- Read manufacturer's directions for use prior to using solvents

SUITABLE SOLVENTS:

- Ethanol (methylated spirits) for slight soiling
- Hexane (petroleum ether or white spirit)
- Methyl glycolic acid