



Stanbrook
& Nicholson
Defining Excellence
in Joinery

Aluminium

Joinery
Aftercare
Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2. CLEANING AND MAINTAINING ALUMINIUM WINDOWS AND DOORS | 2 |
| 3. CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF IRONMONGERY | 4 |
| 4. DO'S AND DON'TS | 5 |
| 5. DURABILITY, TEXTURED AND WOOD GRAIN EFFECT FINISHES | 5 |
| 6. SMARTS MAINTENANCE AND CARE GUIDE | 6 |
| 7. DISCLAIMER | 7 |

1. INTRODUCTION


This guidebook provides some recommended guidelines around how to maintain your recently installed aluminium windows and doors. It will also provide recommendations as to the correct cleaning methods recommended to keep your new or existing aluminium windows in great condition, or to help you restore ageing powder coated aluminium windows.

Aluminium window and door frames are low maintenance products, very durable and known to last for many decades, without repair or re-finishing. A majority of new commercial buildings and also large installations in flats or apartments use powder coated aluminium windows for this reason, along with the structural qualities of aluminium. However some infrequent cleaning and maintenance will help to ensure that painted/powder coated aluminium windows remain looking clean, bright and complimentary to your home for a long time.




2. CLEANING AND MAINTAINING ALUMINIUM WINDOWS AND DOORS

Environment and regularity of cleaning:


 In areas with the influence of salt water (coastal houses or adjacent to a busy, gritted road) or nearby to other sources of heavy emissions (motorways, industrial areas) we recommend that windows should be cleaned at least every three months.


 In a cleaner environment cleaning every six months would be sufficient.


 When carrying out external cleaning, internal surfaces are sometimes missed – overtime tobacco, coal or wood smoke can discolour even hard powder coated windows.


 We recommend cleaning internally at least once a year in a smoke-free home.

Recommended cleaning procedure for new aluminium windows with gloss coating:

 Wash window frames in warm water solution with a non-alkaline liquid detergent. This can be either a specific window frame cleaning detergent/soap or a normal household detergent/soap with a PH value of less than 7 (or a general PH neutral soap-based detergent available in most supermarkets.)

 Use a non abrasive cloth or sponge or a very soft bristle brush. Wash frames to remove grime and any deposits. Wash out all ridges, grooves and joints, where salt and dirt can collect – which prevents corrosion from occurring in the future.


 Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry using a soft cloth or chamois leather.


 For maximum protection and shine, a window specific or automotive/car wax product can be applied once a year, but be sure to test on an area of the frame before use.




For older aluminium window frames / restoration (gloss coatings):

 For older window frames, if any reduction of the gloss/shine is observed or if "chalking" is evident, then a window renovating cream can be used. Which is a very mild abrasive and polish.


 Use caution to make sure the cream purchased is recommended for powder coated / polyester finishes. Automotive colour restoring creams can be used sparingly, but it's important to use only "non abrasive." automotive colour restoring products.

 We advise caution and wherever possible, a specific window product should be used.

 Older style automotive colour restoring creams (such as basic T-Cut) may be too abrasive and could permanently damage the powder coated finish.

 If using a colour restoring product, which may have a mild abrasive action, take extra caution on any ridges or sharp corners (on beads for example) where the paint finish may be thinner more prone to wear from over-polishing. This procedure should not be carried out or required often, even on older powder coated window frames.

 Polish with a soft cloth.

 For the utmost protection, an window specific or automotive wax product can be applied once a year.

3. CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF IRONMONGERY

All items supplied either fitted at works or supplied loose for site fixing must at all times be maintained in a clean grit free condition. Where protection such as plastic wrapping is present this should be left in place until all building works likely to allow the introduction of foreign matter are complete.

Lubrication should be applied sparingly to moving parts at suitable intervals according to their environment during use. The manufacturer advises WD40 applied at the top end of the spiral balance.

In the event of grit particles entering any moving parts the item concerned must be cleaned and re-lubricated immediately, where possible removal for cleaning is advised.








Failure to observe these recommendations will result in rapid deterioration and ultimately failure of the product.

Any item of ironmongery failing as a result of neglect must be replaced immediately in order to preserve the original geometry and function of the item to which it is fixed. Failure to do so may result in damage to accompanying items of ironmongery due to overloading.

Distortion of the joinery product itself may also occur due to the lack of full positional control afforded by an incomplete ironmongery system. Fine metallic finishes (i.e. lacquer) to ironmongery must be cleaned with non-abrasive, non-corrosive cleaners; otherwise the fine surface finish will be damaged.



4. DO'S AND DON'TS

-  Ensure you are wearing the recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when carrying out any cleaning operation.
-  Follow the manufacturer's instructions, as incorrectly applied cleaners can damage the products finish.
-  Avoid excessive rubbing when cleaning.
-  When using cleaning materials specific aluminium, do not allow them to come into contact with any surface other than the one it is specific to.
-  Never mix cleaners.
-  Never use paint removers on any Aluminium products.
-  Always test a small patch when using any cleaning product or technique for the first time.

5. DURABILITY, TEXTURED AND WOOD GRAIN EFFECT FINISHES

Stanbrook and Nicholson have recently started to supply aluminium windows with a range of thicker, matt and textured frame finishes. This range of finishes look great in both modern houses and restoration projects but are also highly resistant to corrosion, dirt build up and are very scratch resistant (like a household non-stick finish.)

Recently, very realistic wood grain finishes have also become available, which have similar hard wearing properties to our standard polyester powder coated finishes, but very accurately replicate the look of wooden windows.

To underline the durability of modern powder coated aluminium windows, all aluminium windows supplied by Stanbrook and Nicholson are covered by a paint finish guarantee against; peeling, powdering, blistering, corrosion, chalking, fading and loss of sheen. Demonstrating that aluminium windows can last and look good for a very long time if properly maintained.

6. MAINTENANCE AND CARE GUIDE

1. Cleaning and Maintenance

(a) In areas within the direct influence zones of salt water, industrial chemical plants, blast furnaces or other aggressive emission sources, the window should be cleaned at least every three months. In relatively cleaner environments, every six months should be sufficient.

In carrying out regular maintenance outside, the internal surfaces are frequently neglected. After a period of time, grime and deposits from tobacco smoke, coal and oil fires etc can discolour the inside window frame and it is recommended that these should be cleaned at least once a year.

(b) Procedure:

(i) Wash down with clean warm water containing non-alkaline liquid detergent (in a concentration that can be handled safely with bare hands) using non-abrasive cloth, sponge or soft bristle brush. This will remove grime, grease, and any excess chalking. All ridges, grooves, joints and drainage channels where salt or other deposits can collect should be well washed out, thus preventing corrosion sites from occurring.

(ii) Rinse thoroughly with clean water.

(iii) Dry using a soft cloth or leather. (c) Where a reduction in gloss is observed, chalking is evident or excessive staining has occurred, an approved renovating cream may be carefully applied with a non-abrasive cloth.

Note: T-Cut or similar automotive paint restorer

may be used provided it is not too abrasive. Care must be taken not to abrade sharp corners of sections or beads too heavily where the paint film is normally thinner. It should be noted that this operation should not be carried out too frequently. Polish with a soft cloth to restore gloss and maintain colour uniformity. (d) For extra protection a wash polish can be applied once or twice a year again polishing with a soft cloth to restore glass.

2. Repair

(a) Blisters and corrosion sites may originate from areas where mechanical damage or scratches have penetrated the paint coating through to the aluminium, or from cut bar or butt ends, mitres, drill holes or drainage slots, where the aluminium is unprotected.

(b) Procedure:

(i) Use fine grade 120-360 grit abrasive paper to remove corrosion products and any non-adherent paint.

(ii) Wipe with white spirit or approved cleaning solvent.

(iii) Ensure surface is absolutely dry before applying a thin priming coat. Allow 20-30 minutes to "Flash Off" using a fine brush.

(iv) With a fine brush, touch in the damaged and primed area with an air drying paint. It should be recognised that the air drying paint will not possess the same weathering properties as the powder coating, but nevertheless will give a reasonable amount of protection. Their use should of course be confined only to small areas of damage.

3. Points to Bear in Mind When Specifying Organic Coated Aluminium

(a) No powder coated paint coating, whether polyester or acrylic (or indeed if the substrate is PVC-U) is "Maintenance free". Especially when installing in coastal districts or areas with high industrial pollution, advice should be given at the time of installation regarding the frequency and nature of cleaning maintenance needed.

(b) Modern powder coated finishes that we apply to architectural aluminium are practically identical to the types used on motor vehicles and therefore require a similar degree of care and attention which people typically lavish on their car bodywork. The frequency of cleaning relates directly to the decorative standard which the householder wishes to maintain and also the particular environment where the units are situated.

(c) All paints "Chalk" to some extent in service and a reduction in gloss level will occur. The original finish can be easily restored using the procedure in 1c.

4. Replacement of Broken Glass

Windows and doors can be re-glazed and the gasket and weather-stripping replaced using materials supplied. Any damage to the gasket or beads may necessitate replacement to retain the weather performance of the product. (Refer to Supplier)

5. Replacement of Damaged Components

If damage occurs, the furniture and fittings can be readily replaced by releasing the fixing screws and changing the fitting. (Refer to Supplier).

6. Window Hardware and Maintenance

The friction stays and locking mechanisms should be lubricated periodically to minimise wear and to ensure smooth operation. Care should be taken to avoid applying lubricant to the friction pads, as this will impair their braking action. The resistance of the pads can be adjusted, if necessary, with the brass screws provided in each pad.

7. Doors Hardware and Maintenance

Hinges and locking mechanisms should be lubricated periodically to minimise wear and tear to ensure smooth operations.

7. DISCLAIMER

The advice offered herein can be done by a homeowner with some mechanical aptitude. If you are unsure, it is recommended that you hire a trained service provider such as a competent and licensed construction contractor or building professional.

Stanbrook & Nicholson disclaims any and all liability associated with the use and/or provision of these instructions. Any reliance upon the information or advice is at the risk of the party so relying. The information contained herein may also be changed from time to time without notification.

