

Key Notes for Cleaning ALUCOBOND PLUS Panels:

- Panels should be cleaned on a regular basis. The timing of this cleaning is highly dependant on the location of the building and the amount of dirt and pollution in that area. A general rule is to clean the panels when the windows are cleaned.
- Watch the clock! Don't allow cleaning solutions to remain on panel surface for extended periods of time. Failure to follow this procedure may cause damage to the gloss of the panel.
- Do not mechanically abrade a painted finish when trying to clean a panel. Do not use wire brushes, steel wool, sandpaper, rubbing compound, cleaning compound, abrasives or other similar cleaning tools. Instead use a sponge, soft cloth, or soft bristle brush to clean the panels.
- Avoid pressure washing panels to prevent damage to panels & wall system components.
- Always test cleaning materials and procedures on a small, inconspicuous area prior to use on a large scale. Start with milder cleaners first and progress to more aggressive cleaners if mild detergents are ineffective.
- Read & observe guidelines within Safety Data Sheets for cleaning products being used. Wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Construction soils, including runoff from concrete and mortar can stain painted metal surfaces and should be removed as soon as possible.



Cleaning of ALUCOBOND PLUS Panels with **paint finishes:**

- For issues such as dirt build-up and paint chalking, a 5% solution (one part detergent to 20 parts water) of commonly used commercial and industrial detergents, such as Tide®, will not have any deleterious effect on ALUCOBOND PLUS panels with painted PVDF or Polyester finishes. These solutions should be followed by an adequate rinse of water. Use cloth, sponges, or a soft bristle brush for application. Cleaning should be done on a shaded side of the building or, ideally, on a mild and cloudy day. Always test cleaning materials and procedures on a small, inconspicuous area prior to use on a large scale.
- In cases where the panels cannot be cleaned with the methods above, solvents may be used carefully.
- In cases of non-water soluble stains, alcohols such as Isopropyl or denatured can be effective. Certain petroleum solvents like Naptha can be used but only with many clean, dry towel cloths available. Under no conditions should acetone be used as a finish cleaner.
- In warm climates, in cases of mold or mildew mix one cup of mild soap with 1/2 gallon bleach and 5 gallons of water. Wash the panels with this solution while following the guidelines above. Be careful to use appropriate personal protective equipment when using aggressive cleaners.

Cleaning of ALUCOBOND PLUS Panels with a **brushed finish:**

When cleaning panels with brushed finishes, follow the subsequent steps:

- Prepare 1:3 to 1:10 mix of Mirachem 500 Liquid, that is one part Mirachem 500 to three to ten parts water.
- Wash the surface by hand using a lamb's wool mitt or soft cloth, and the Mirachem 500 water solution, applying medium pressure. Rinse off immediately.
- Cleaning should be done on a shaded side of the building or, ideally, on a mild and cloudy day.

Cleaning of ALUCOBOND PLUS Panels with a **mirror finish:**

- Wash the Reflect Mirror surface by hand using a lamb's wool mitt or soft cloth and a 3.0 - 4.5 PH cleaner and water. Follow with a thorough clear water rinse and dry immediately with a soft cloth. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions for cleaning agents used.
- Oil and grease can be removed using a 1:1 mixture of isopropyl alcohol and water with a fiber-free soft cotton cloth. Rinse off thoroughly and dry with a fiber-free cotton cloth. Residues of alcohol-based cleaning products are easily wiped away with a water-soaked cotton cloth.
- Stubborn stains can be soaked in a diluted citrus cleaner.
- Do not use concentrated acids or alkalines such as hydrochloric acid. Do not use cleaning product undiluted. Avoid the use of vinegar-based cleaning products.
- Avoid cleaner application to hot panels as cleaners may become too aggressive at higher temperatures.
- Avoid hard tools and scouring pads.
- Avoid direct finger contact with surface to prevent fingerprints.

Cleaning of ALUCOBOND PLUS **Anodized Panels:**

- Both painted and anodized surfaces exposed to the atmosphere collect soil and dirt at a similar rate. For mild dirt or chalk build-up, follow the recommendations above for painted panels.
- For heavy surface soil, hand-scrub the panel using a nylon cleaning pad rubbing the panel in the direction of the metal grain. Wet the pad with clean water or a mild detergent and apply even pressure. After scrubbing the surface, rinse it thoroughly.
- If inorganic build-up won't come off with this method, utilize solvents with extreme care. More thorough instructions for cleaning coated & anodized aluminum panels can be found in AAMA 609 & 610.

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