



**Date:** August 26th, 2015  
**To:** Customer Network  
**From:** Marketing Department  
**Re:** Cleaning & Maintenance Instructions

Citadel Architectural Products, Inc. recommends the following guidelines for proper cleaning and maintenance of our cladding systems. For warranty purposes, finishes should be regularly cleaned and properly maintained. Cleaning of the finish (both painted and anodized) is required at least one time per year for the warranty to remain valid.

### **SPRAY-APPLIED AND COIL-COATED PAINTED FINISHES:**

The architectural coatings utilized on our products and systems are non-adherent in nature, making them resistant to various environmental elements and airborne soil. However, periodic cleanings are recommended to remove surface deposits, dirt, and contaminants that can dull the appearance of the finish. There are a variety of methods and materials available for cleaning. However, as with any finish, certain precautions apply:

#### **Precautions Before Beginning**

- Do not use abrasive cleaners or cleaning tools which can abrade the coating surface.
- All cleaning methods (solvents in particular) should be tested on small, inconspicuous areas before use on a large scale.
- A clean water rinse should immediately follow any cleaning to prevent streaking from dried cleaning solutions. It is recommended that surfaces be cleaned in shaded areas (when possible) or on cloudy, mild days to prevent quick drying. Do not attempt to clean hot surfaces.

Always begin with plain water using a hose or pressure washer (starting with low pressure then gradually increasing). If this method is not adequate in removing heavy deposits, stronger methods may be required. These methods are recommended in a progressive order, from mild to aggressive.

#### **Hot Or Cold Detergent Solutions**

- A 5% solution of common commercial or industrial detergents which contain less than 0.5% phosphate, will not harm the coil or extrusion coating. Use a soaked cloth, sponge or soft bristled brush for application.
- One cup of household ammonia dissolved into five gallons of water.

#### **Solvents**

Most organic solvents are flammable and/or toxic. Refer to the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and labeling for cautions. Non-water soluble

deposits (tar, grease, oil, graffiti, etc.) may be removed using solvents. Exercise extreme caution when using solvents. Limit surface contact with solvent to five minutes and test before use.

- Alcohols
  - Denatured Alcohol (ethanol)
  - Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
- Petroleum Solvents
  - VM & P Naptha
  - Mineral Spirits
- Aromatic
  - Xylol (xylene)
  - Toluol (toluene)

### **Chemical Solutions**

- Mildew Removal
  - 1/3 cup dry powdered laundry detergent (i.e. Tide™)
  - 1 quart sodium hypochlorite 5% solution (i.e. Clorox™)
  - 3 quarts water
- Rust Stains
  - Hydrochloric, citric, or muriatic acid, diluted at a 10:1 ratio with water may assist in removing rust stains.

### **BATCH OR COIL-COATED ANODIZED FINISHES:**

Always begin with plain water using a hose or pressure washer (starting with low pressure then gradually increasing). If this method is not adequate in removing heavy deposits, use a soft-bristled brush or sponge and fresh water. For a more aggressive approach, use a mild detergent cleaning first in a horizontal motion, then a vertical motion. Rinse thoroughly with fresh water.

### **Recommended Cleaning Agents**

- Henkel SC110LF
- 10% Ammonium
- Mineral Spirits
- Organic Cleaners
- Acetone
- Henkel Ridoline 212
- Methanol
- PH-Neutral Solvents
- MEK

**For more information on the cleaning and maintenance our cladding systems, contact our technical staff at (800) 446-8828.**

