

Come in!

Aluminium Maintenance

Aluminium is a very lightweight metal, about one-third the weight of steel. It is very strong and exhibits a very high strength to weight ratio but, it is in fact, three times less than Steel and five times less than Stainless Steel.

It is a very durable metal, yet easy to work with and offers no-paint maintenance ability.

It can be easily fabricated, formed, welded, riveted or bolted. It does not rust. It is easy to work with and it produces a highly reflective attractive finish.

Aluminium is resistant to corrosion and attack by most chemicals. The dark grey oxide that forms on the outer surface of aluminium, unlike rust in iron, protects the basic metal. In iron, the basic metal will rust continuously.

If aluminium is subjected to a commercial process, anodizing, it forms aluminium oxide, one of the hardest man-made substances, through an electro-chemical process that thickens the coat of the aluminium. This increases the durability, and often, the visual appeal of the aluminium with the possibility of different colours for this process.

Most aluminium used in visible parts or applications is lacquered or coated, anodized or painted. Any parts that receive the most abrasion from traffic should be anodized. Anodizing superior abrasion resistance will allow it to outlast paint on a door stile, or many typical applications. If the fabricated piece is to be used in a high use area, lacquering is not a good option, due to it is easily rubbed off.

Grupsa-System, recommends nevertheless, as advisable material normalized for places that, being inaccessible or having elements that can suffer corrosion or a high abrasion as is the case of the push-handles, Stainless steel, because it does not need to be covered in any form, dealt with no product or painting, neither an over-dimension to avoid corrosion.

Aluminium must be either powder coated or anodized to prevent oxidation. Mill finished aluminium surfaces will oxidize over a long period of time.

Welding of aluminium requires specialized equipment and training compared to standard welding of steel. Its application in metallic carpentries is scarce or null because if the aluminium is anodized it could be changes of tone among the remainder of pieces or profiles.

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Metal care tips for aluminum

Like stainless steel, aluminum is relatively resistant to corrosion. But it is very susceptible to attack by strong acids and alkalis used in some cleaning products. Also, it is very susceptible to galvanic corrosion - if aluminum and another type of metal are in contact with a liquid food that contains an electrolyte (e.g. salt), an electric current may form resulting in dissolution of the more active metal, which will probably be the aluminum.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Use a mild detergent and warm water when possible. Alkalis, even baking soda, and especially stronger alkalis discolor aluminum. If trying a stronger cleaner, pre-test on a hidden place to be sure it cleans satisfactorily and does not damage the aluminum. Always follow directions on the product label for aluminum.

On outdoor architectural surfaces, remove bugs, sap, tree seeds, and other materials as soon as possible, as they harden with exposure to sunlight and heat, and become more difficult to remove or remove some paint at the same time.

Suitable solvents will remove tar and similar substances. Test the solvent first if the aluminum is painted to be sure it doesn't also remove the paint. Make sure you follow the product label precautions when using solvents. Ensure that no spark or flame is in the area and make sure you have adequate ventilation.

What not to do

Avoid using abrasive cleaners (scouring powders, steel wool, abrasive polishes, etc.) since they can permanently scratch aluminum. Painted or anodized aluminum surfaces will be permanently damaged. Do not clean aluminum when it is too hot to touch, or if ambient temperature drops below 50° F.

Aluminum is so susceptible to corrosion from alkalis that aluminum panels should be protected from splashed mortar and cement.