



Atlas Steels AlFacade®

Cleaning and Maintenance
Version 2.0



AlFacade® Cleaning and Maintenance Schedule

AlFacade® non-combustible aluminium panels are coated using Beckers premium PVDF paint technology designed for longevity and minimise maintenance requirements. The PVDF coatings applied to the aluminium surface provide aesthetic long lasting facade panels across a vast range of colours that can withstand the toughest of environmental conditions by following the correct care and maintenance procedures described below.

In order to maintain the painted surface of AlFacade® panels in their optimal condition, it is recommended to clean the panels on a regular basis. The cleaning schedule can vary depending on the geographical area where the panels are installed, however it is recommended that the panels are cleaned on an annual basis, 12-month intervals as a minimum.

AlFacade® detailed cleaning & maintenance procedures are as follows:

A - Required assessment before cleaning.

1. When using any type of cleaner ensure appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) is worn to prevent chemical irritation or burns before commencing any cleaning procedures. The appropriate PPE should be prescribed by the supplier or manufacturer of the cleaning agent.
2. The amount of residue and build up of dirt on AlFacade® PVDF coated panels depends on a variety of factors, most importantly the geographic location of the installed panels. Other varying factors that need to be considered when cleaning the panels are location position on the building structure of the panels, current weather conditions, and whether there is a build up of dirt / pollution on the panels.
3. Its highly recommended to test clean a small inconspicuous area of the AlFacade® panels before cleaning on a large scale area of the facade.

B - AlFacade® cleaning & maintenance process

1. Spray the panel surface with clean water via by hose or pressure washer, ensuring there is no residual dust or dirt remaining on the panels.
2. If required use a mild detergent diluted as per detergent manufacturer's guidelines, use a soft cleaning cloth (lambswool mitt or nonabrasive sponge) to wipe down the panel surface.
3. After wiping down the AlFacade® panels, check to see that the panel surface is clean, then rinse the panels with clean water making sure all detergent residue is removed. If there are areas that are heavily soiled, repeat the cleaning process with a diluted mild detergent and rinse again with clean water until clean.

C - Additional detergent and solvent cleaning options

1. General cleaning of dust and dirt on the panels can be cleaned by using a general purpose industrial grade detergent in a 20/1 solution (one-part detergent to 20 parts of water). General industrial detergents will not have any adverse effect on the AlFacade® panels PVDF coated surface, for example: WWWCS Easy Multi-Purpose Cleaner streak free, industrial strength multi-purpose cleaner for any washable surface.
2. During and after the construction stage varied types of materials can cause staining & markings on the panels i.e. mortar, concrete, rust and staining run off from other building materials, its recommended that only in these types of circumstances that a hydrochloric acid solution (10% muriatic acid) diluted with ten parts water can be used to clean the panels. It is extremely important to test clean a small discrete area of the panels before proceeding with cleaning all of the AlFacade® panels.

D - Additional information

There is potential for different types of dirt and residue build up on AlFacade® panels, refer to the following list below for examples of typical and unusual circumstances and the recommended treatment for these issues.

It is very important to ensure that these cleaning recommendations are followed and that no damage to the painted surface of the panel is caused by incorrect cleaning products and methods. Harsh cleaning chemicals such as hydrochloric acid, if not mixed correctly and tested in discrete area can cause damage to the AlFacade® panel's PVDF coating so please adhere to all requirements and recommendations.



Mildew removal

Use 1/3 cup detergent
2/3 cup trisodium phosphate(TSP) –
1-quart Sodium hypochlorite
5% solution (Liquid bleach)
Apply with a soft cloth and rinse immediately
with clean water.

Non-water based soluble dirt (tar, oil, graffiti etc.)

Alcohols
- Denatured Alcohol or Ethanol
- Methanol
- Isopropyl or Rubbing Alcohol

Petroleum Solvents

Naphtha Spirits
Mineral Spirits
Turpentine

Aromatic Solvents

Xylene
Toluene

Aromatic Solvents

Xylene
Toluene

Acetone and paint removers

NOT TO USED ON ALFACADE® PANELS UNDER
ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

E – Additional important notes

1. Do not clean the AlFacade® panels when in direct sunlight and temperature is above 25 degrees Celsius. High panel surface temperature can create certain chemical reactions that cause damage to painted surfaces. Cleaning should be carried out on a shaded side of the building or on a cooler or cloudy day.
2. Always use a mild type of detergent for general maintenance and avoid the use of any strong acid or alkali solutions except for when required to clean in cases of mildew (as specifically prescribed above). Note: Direct contact of acids or alkali onto aluminium can damage the metal.
3. Do not use stiff bristled brushes, wire brushes, steel wool, sandpaper, cutting & rubbing compounds, or anything abrasive that can scratch the paint surface.
4. The use of all cleaning solutions should be done by following that product's manufacturer's guidelines. If there is any uncertainty: DO NOT USE.
5. Ensure that the cleaned panel surfaces are properly washed down with clean water to remove any detergent residue after cleaning.
6. If you are unsure or require any further information regarding the cleaning procedures, Contact your local Atlas Steels AlFacade® Branch.

