

Purpose of This Guide

This guide provides practical cleaning and care recommendations for Alumatex powder coated aluminium finishes. Routine maintenance limits the build-up of contaminants and helps retain the coating's appearance in a wide range of Australian conditions.

Why Regular Cleaning Matters

Like any exterior coated surface, Alumatex will gradually weather when exposed to UV, salt, moisture and airborne pollution. Over time you may see reduced gloss, light chalking or minor colour changes. When grime is left to accumulate, it can hold moisture against the coating and may speed up surface deterioration.

Before You Start

- Clean when the surface is cool: ideally below 25°C and out of direct sun.
- Start maintenance from day one: remove construction residue (cement dust, render, paint, sealants, sunscreen) before it dries.
- Use gentle tools only: microfibre cloths, soft sponges, or a soft-bristle brush.
- Rinse thoroughly after washing so detergent and loosened dirt do not dry on the surface.
- Avoid aggressive cleaning methods that can thin or scratch the coating.

Routine Wash Procedure

For most sites, a basic wash using fresh water and a mild, pH-neutral detergent is sufficient.

1. Pre-rinse all faces with clean water to remove loose dust and grit.
2. For built-up deposits, soak the area first. Wipe gently with a wet sponge or microfibre cloth.
3. Wash using warm water mixed with a pH-neutral detergent (mild dishwashing liquid).
4. Agitate lightly with a soft cloth or soft-bristle brush. Do not scour.
5. Rinse again with fresh, clean water until all residue is removed.
6. If fine dust is present (common during construction), rinse a second time and dry with a clean microfibre towel to prevent spotting or dust marks.

High-pressure washing is usually unnecessary. If a pressure washer is used, keep the pressure low, use a wide fan nozzle, maintain a safe distance, and never use a turbo/cyclonic nozzle that can damage the finish.

Spot Cleaning for Stubborn Marks

If a mark cannot be removed with the routine wash method, use the least aggressive option available and treat only the affected area.

- Test first in an inconspicuous area to confirm there is no colour change or surface dulling.
- Use isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or methylated spirits on a clean cloth for small spots only.
- Do not use these products in direct sun or when the surface is hot (above 25°C).
- After spot cleaning, immediately wash the area with pH-neutral detergent and rinse with fresh water.

Products and Methods to Avoid

Avoid the following, as they can scratch the coating or remove protective layers:

- Abrasive pads, scouring powders, steel wool, or cutting compounds/polishes.
- Hard bristle brushes that can cause micro-scratching.
- Strong solvents or thinners (including turpentine and white spirits).
- Acidic or highly alkaline cleaners (including brick/concrete acids).
- Citrus-based cleaners unless specifically approved by Alumatex for your coating system.
- Cleaning chemicals not intended for powder coated architectural aluminium.

If you are unsure whether a cleaner is suitable, do not use it. Contact your Alumatex supplier/installer for advice.

How Often Should Alumatex be Cleaned?

Cleaning frequency depends on exposure. Coastal air, pool chemicals and industrial fallout typically require more frequent washing. Sheltered areas (under eaves, balconies and recessed zones) can also need extra attention because rain does not naturally rinse the surface.

The intervals below provide a practical guide. In severe marine or industrial locations, more frequent cleaning (including monthly rinsing) may be required to reduce salt and pollutant build-up.

Environment (typical)	Examples	Recommended interval
Low / typical exposure	Inland residential, rural, light suburban	Every 6-12 months
Urban	Typical city/suburban locations	Every 6-12 months
High exposure	Pool surrounds, light industrial, sheltered coastal	Every 3-6 months
Coastal (no direct spray)	Near-coastal sites without constant salt spray	Every 3-6 months
Very high marine	Beachfront, marinas, exposed coastal	Every 3 months (or more often if required)
Very high industrial / tropical wet	Heavy industrial, high humidity with long wet periods	Every 3 months (or more often if required)

Storage, Handling and Site Protection

- Store components in a dry, well-ventilated area prior to installation.
- Use spacers or packaging to allow air to circulate between coated faces (avoid trapping moisture).
- Keep products protected from impact and abrasion during transport, storage and installation.
- During construction, prevent cement dust, render, paint overspray and sealants from contacting the finished surface.

Keep Records

Keeping a simple maintenance log makes it easier to demonstrate that cleaning has been carried out in line with recommended practice. Record the environment (for example coastal/urban), the products used, and any observations about coating condition.

Routine Inspection Checklist

Inspect Alumatex surfaces during each scheduled clean, and after major weather events or nearby construction activity.

- Build-up of dirt, salt or grime in sheltered areas (under eaves, inside corners, behind screens).
- Evidence of chalking, noticeable gloss reduction, or discolouration beyond normal weathering.
- Scratches, impact marks or abrasions, particularly on high-traffic areas.
- Staining from concrete, render, sealants, sunscreen or overspray.
- Signs of corrosion at fasteners, joints, cut edges or damaged coating.
- Blocked drainage paths or weep holes (where applicable).

If you identify damage or unusual deterioration, do not attempt to sand or polish the coated surface. Seek advice from your Alumatex supplier/installer so the correct repair method can be selected.

Standards and Warranty Considerations

Cleaning recommendations for architectural powder coated aluminium in Australia are often aligned with relevant Australian Standards and with environment severity (for example coastal, industrial or tropical exposure). Where your Alumatex warranty specifies a maintenance interval or approved cleaning products, those requirements should be followed.

