

# Sapa Extrusions

## Cleaning and Maintenance of Architectural Aluminum

Architecturally finished aluminum requires special care. It may require special packaging to protect critical exposed surfaces, and there are safe, practical methods for keep it clean and well-maintained.

- **Anodized Aluminum** – Although anodized aluminum has exceptional corrosion resistant properties, its natural beauty can be damaged by harsh chemicals, rough conditions or neglect. These primarily affect only the surface finish and do not reduce the service life of the aluminum. However, mortar, cement and other alkaline materials will quickly corrode anodic coatings if allowed to dry on the aluminum surface.
- **Painted Aluminum** – Both painted and anodized surfaces, exposed to the atmosphere, collect soil and dirt. Recessed and sheltered areas are more prone to collecting dirt because rain doesn't wash it away. Dirt will rarely damage the coating, but cleaning will preserve the aluminum's beautiful appearance. This may be especially important in areas where heavy industrial deposits or construction debris have dulled the surface.

In general, the simplest cleaning procedure is to flush the surface of the aluminum with water using moderate pressure to dislodge the dirt. Cleaning chemicals should not be allowed to collect or puddle on horizontal surfaces or in crevices. They should be flushed with water and dried.

If absolutely necessary, solvents may be used to remove non-water soluble deposits, but use extreme caution or they may damage organic sealants and painted finishes. Never use aggressive alkaline or acid cleaners on aluminum finishes.

Sapa Extrusions is part of the world's largest aluminum profile company, and the North American leader in common alloy standard and custom extruded aluminum products.