PRODUCT MAINTENANCE GUIDE

ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS

Powder Coated Aluminium like all metal products is subject to change caused by the effects of ultra violet light, pollution, dirt, grime and salt which can accumulate on the powder coated surface over time. To extend the effective life of powder coatings a very simple regular maintenance programme should be implemented for the removal of any residues.

ON GOING MAINTENANCE

Advice is often sought concerning the frequency of cleaning of products made of Aluminium, and the answer is quite simply "clean the metal when it is dirty in order to restore its original appearance". As a general rule, cleaning should take place every six months. However, in areas where pollutants are more prevalent, especially in coastal or industrial areas, a cleaning programme should be carried out on a more frequent basis (i.e every three months).

CLEANING METHODS

To clean your powder coated surface:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet sponge.
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with clean water.

Detergents that recommend the use of gloves when handling should be avoided as this is a good indication that the detergent is harsh and, therefore, unsuitable for cleaning your powder coated balustrade.

If paint splashes, sealants or other residue need to be removed, then Methylated Spirits, Turpentine or White Spirits may be used safely. Although some strong solvents are recommended, these should be avoided as these may be harmful to the extended life of the powder coated finish.

STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTS

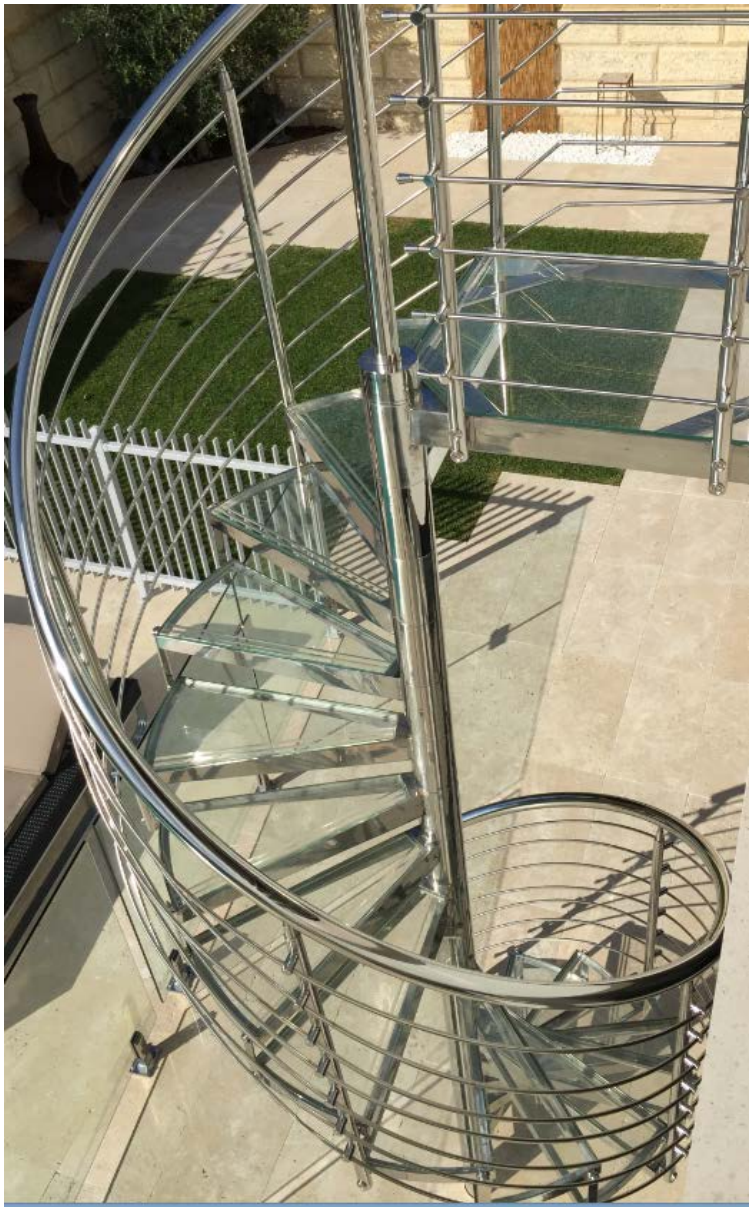
Stainless Steel like all metal products is subject to change caused by environmental conditions. Looking after it requires some maintenance and by following the suggested guidelines below should give you years of pleasure.

ON GOING MAINTENANCE

Advice is often sought concerning the frequency of cleaning of products made of Stainless Steel, and the answer is quite simply “clean the metal when it is dirty in order to restore its original appearance”. This may vary from four times a year for external applications to yearly.

CLEANING METHODS

Stainless Steel is easy to clean. Washing with soap or mild detergent and warm water followed by a clean water rinse is usually quite adequate. An enhanced appearance will be achieved if the cleaned surface is finally wiped dry. Specific methods of cleaning are as per the following table.



PROBLEM	CLEANING AGENT	COMMENTS
Routine Cleaning	Soap or mild detergent and water (Preferably warm) Mr Sheen	Sponge, rinse with clean water, wipe dry if necessary.
Fingerprints	Soap and warm water or organic solvent (eg acetone, alcohol, methylated spirits).	Rinse with clean water, wipe dry
Stubborn Stains and Discolouration	Mild cleaning solutions, eg Jif, speciality stainless steel cleaners. Glenol or Autosol paste	Use rag, sponge or fibre brush (soft nylon or natural bristle, an old tooth brush can be useful). Rinse well with clean water and wipe dry.
Lime Deposits from Hard Water	Solution of one part vinegar to three parts water.	Soak in solution then brush to loosen. Rinse well with clean water.
Oil or Grease Marks	Organic solvents (eg acetone, alcohol, methylated spirits, trichlorothane).	Clean after with soap and water, rinse with clean water and dry.
Rust and other Corrosion Products. Embedded or Adhering	Rust stains can be removed by adding one part of nitric acid to nine parts of warm water. Leave for 30 to 60 minutes, then wash off with plenty of fresh water and flush any drains thoroughly.	Rinse well with clean water. Wear rubber gloves, mix the solution in a glass container, and be very careful with the acid. (See container for safety details).

GLASS PRODUCTS

Glass is one of the most utilised building materials because of its durability, beauty and transparent properties that help connect to the outside environment.

Keeping this in mind a correct cleaning procedure plays a vital role in maintaining the visual and structural qualities of the glass.

CLEANING METHODS

Remove any dirt or debris from glass as soon as it is visible.

When possible avoid cleaning glass in direct sunlight.

Flood the surface with water or cleaning solutions to remove loose dust and grit.

For best results, clean the glass beginning at the top and working downwards.

Wipe with a clean wet cloth, free of grit, (as gritty dirt particles picked up by the cloth could scratch the glass), until glass is visibly clean.

Rinse with clean water.

Dry immediately with a clean lint-free cloth or good clean squeegee. Do not allow metal squeegee holders to touch the glass surface.

Do not use any additives that contain hydrofluoric acid, or have the possibility of forming hydrofluoric acid. Hydrofluoric acid is a highly corrosive liquid and is a contact poison.

It should be handled with extreme care, beyond that accorded to other mineral acids. Due to the ability of hydrofluoric acid to penetrate human tissue, poisoning can occur readily through exposure of skin or eyes, or when inhaled or swallowed. Hydrofluoric acid will quickly and permanently damage the glass surface.