

# alm products ltd.

## **Technical Requirements for Cleaning and Maintenance of Powder coatings and plastic coatings**

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

Powder Coatings and Plastic Coatings are organic coatings that need to be cleaned and maintained regularly to ensure that the decorative and protective properties of the coating are retained.

**Specific reference should be made to the terms and conditions of the Product Guarantee which requires that all product instructions, including these, be implemented and adhered to for the guarantee to be valid.**

**There may be local regulations or local requirements to be met in order to achieve conformance to certain published quality labels or standards. It is the users' responsibility to be aware of such standards.**

### **Cleaning coated surfaces**

#### **Method**

Usual maintenance of coated products can be done with an appropriate cleaning product, followed by clear water rinsing and wiping using a soft cloth.

All surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth or sponge, using nothing harsher than natural bristle brushes.

During the cleaning procedure, any scratches, surface blemishes or other defects in the painted/coated surface should be identified and recorded; preventative repairs and minor

reapplication of protective coatings (*see Repair Procedure at the end of this document*) should be carried out as soon as possible after the defect has been identified/reported. Failure to carry out repairs swiftly will lead to corrosion of the substrate and failure of the coated finish.

### **Cleaning products**

Before cleaning, the cleaning agent's datasheet must be consulted. Usual maintenance can be done using water with mild detergent (pH 5 to 8).

### **Do not under any circumstances use strong solvents or solutions containing:**

Chlorinated Hydrocarbons  
Esters  
Ketones  
Abrasive cleaner or polish

### **Frequency**

The frequency of cleaning depends in part on the standard of appearance that is required and also the requirements to remove deposits that could, during prolonged contact with either the powder film or the metal substrate (if exposed) cause damage or corrosion.

The frequency of such cleaning will depend on many factors including:

- 1) The installation environment e.g. leisure centre, swimming pool, hotel cloakroom etc
- 2) Type & Frequency of use e.g. Heavy/constant, light/infrequent
- 3) Other factors including, but not limited to;
  - i) Type of chemical cleaners used within the environment on other surfaces and the potential for these to come into contact with the painted surfaces.
  - ii) Types of cleaning equipment used and the potential for these to scratch, scuff or abrade the coated surfaces.

As a minimum, we recommend that all coated surfaces should be cleaned quarterly, however it is the responsibility of the end user to determine the correct frequency, taking into account the above factors. The overriding objective is to ensure any damage to the coated surface is identified and repaired immediately and that any contact with aggressive chemicals is rinsed off immediately to prevent irreparable damage.

## **WARNING**

The use of aggressive cleaning substances on floors and other hard surfaces is common practice however, these substances are highly detrimental to powder & plastic coatings. It is extremely important to rinse off any coated surface which comes into contact with these substances immediately to maintain the integrity and protective properties of the coating.

It is a condition of the product guarantee that Records of all cleaning substances/chemicals, cleaning schedules and frequencies shall be kept and maintained along with a full log of all damage and repair information and made available to ALM Products Ltd if requested.

## **Repair Procedure**

For on-site rectification of small damaged areas Cromadex 800 Two Pack Non-Isocyanate Acrylic Topcoat, matched for colour and gloss to the appropriate Interpon D Range shade, should be used. Where brush application is to be employed, Interthane 990 should be used to repair gloss systems, and Interthane 870 for off-gloss systems.

Where damage has exposed the metal, the prepared metal only should be primed with Cromadex 903 Two Pack Chromate-Free Etch Primer. Please see the relevant data sheets for thinning ratios and drying times.

Minimum requirements to repair small isolated areas (approx.5-6cm<sup>2</sup>) and scratch damage

(a) Clean all surfaces to be painted with Cromadex 678 Spirit Wipe or equivalent by applying liberally using a clean lint-free cloth and wipe dry using lint-free cloths physically removing all sealants and mastics, etc.

(b) Abrade all areas to be coated with abrasive paper, up to P320 grade, if necessary, to ensure a suitable keyed surface, ready to be coated, then wipe clean using lint free tac rags.

(c) Apply by brush to exposed metal surfaces only one thin coat of Cromadex 903 Two Pack Chromate-Free Etch Primer and allow to dry for one hour.

(d) Apply by brush or spray one coat of the relevant top coat matched to shade and gloss.