

Advice on Aftercare of Powder Coated Products from Highland Colour Coaters

Powder coated products can continue to look great for a long time - with a few easy tips on caring and maintaining them.

Products that are exposed to the elements will need simple cleaning from time to time in order to minimize the effects of weathering, removing dirt, grime and other build-up, which is detrimental to powder coating.

How often to clean depends on a few factors:

- the geographical location of the building
- the environment surrounding the products e.g. marine, industrial, alkaline or acidic
- the level of atmospheric pollution including salts
- prevailing winds and the level of airborne debris causing erosive wear e.g. sand
- a long term change in the environmental circumstances e.g. if rural became industrial.

The environment is a key factor in the frequency of cleaning required. Normal cleaning frequency in environments with high corrosive levels, such as industrial or marine, should be at a minimum of six monthly intervals.

Sheltered areas can be more at risk of coating degradation than exposed areas. This is because wind-blown salt and other pollutants may adhere to the surface and not be cleaned away with rainfall. These areas should be inspected and cleaned if necessary on a regular basis. Where the atmosphere is deemed to be non-hazardous, such as rural or 'normal' urban environments, then the period between cleaning can be extended up to a maximum of 24 months.

For the best protection, start early. Cleaning can be started at the time the products are installed ensuring that construction materials such as concrete, plaster and paint splashes are removed before they have a chance to fully dry. If these materials are not removed at this early stage, aggressive cleaning materials and techniques might be used that could cause damage to the powder coated surface.

The best method of cleaning is simple: regular washing using a soft cloth, sponge or soft natural bristle brush with a solution of warm water and non-abrasive pH neutral detergent solution. It is important to thoroughly rinse the surfaces after cleaning to remove all residues.

