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## Care and Maintenance of Your Powder-Coated Products

Your Mild Steel metalwork products are factory pre-finished in long-lasting electrostatic-applied powder-coating. Powdercoating is one of the most durable colour coatings available and, with a little effort on your part, it will provide you with many years of excellent service. We want you to get the full long-term benefit of choosing low maintenance powdercoated items, so we have prepared this information sheet for you that details the few simple things you need to do to get maximum satisfaction from your investment.

### Regular washing is The Key To Looking Smart

To maintain the good looks of your powdercoated items, They all need regular washing all over - not just the parts that are sheltered from the rain. In fact looking after your powder-coated metalwork is very much like looking after a new car - a regular wash keeps your investment in smart condition. Unless you are close to the seaside or are in a similar harsh environment, such as near an industrial area, washing down your metalwork about every three to six months should be sufficient. Simply use a good quality, soft bristled, window washing brush as sold by general hardware stores. Some brushes have in-built detergent dispensers and connect directly to the garden tap. These brushes make it really easy to rinse off the detergent bubbles - which is a very important part of the care process. If you choose to wash the metalwork by hand in the traditional way, simply use a dilute solution of mild pH neutral liquid hand-dishwashing detergent, available from your supermarket, mixed the same way you would use to wash your dishes. Be sure to rinse off the metalwork with a gentle spray from a hose, and ideally dry the metalwork to avoid any marks developing. .

If the Polyester coating has become heavily soiled it may be difficult to remove this soiling using only a mild detergent solution. In order to over come this problem, several commercially available cleaners have been tested.:-

- Ajax Cream
- Liquid Gumption
- Flash in water
- Ajax Liquid in water.

While tests show that products of this type may be used successfully in the removal of heavy surface deposits, particular care must be exercised in their use to avoid any scuffing of the powder coating film.

It is recommended that in all cases, such products are reserved for heavy soiled coatings only and should be tested on a small area first to assess their efficiency. After application all detergents and cleaners must be thoroughly rinsed away with clean water.

**WARNING:** - Never use any other kind of solvent cleaner as it could damage the powdercoating or cause it to deteriorate and age rapidly. Common solvents such as petrol, Acetates, Dulon Thinners, and Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) are very damaging to powdercoat and must never come into contact with it. Highly acidic, alkaline, common household solvent or alcohol-based cleaners are not recommended either. These comments also apply equally to the other components that may make up your items Eg. Stainless Steel or toughened glass

Please note that 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 a powder coated surface.

Brick Cleaning: Acids used for brick cleaning can damage the coating and reduce its protective quality. Surfaces should be protected to prevent contact with brick cleaning acids. If contact does occur, the surfaces should immediately be thoroughly washed with copious amounts of clean water.

### Refurbishing Powdercoated Products

All surfaces eventually degrade on prolonged exposure to the elements. Change of colour, loss of gloss and some chalking may eventuate after time. A number of restoration techniques are possible. These will depend on the particular circumstances and the life expectancy of the refurbishment. The type of refurbishment chosen may vary between domestic and commercial applications. For Domestic Refurbishment, we recommend polishing with a high quality automotive cream polish in accordance with the polish manufacturer's instructions. This will both clean and protect the surface. Avoid polishes which also contain cutting compounds, unless the surface is extremely weathered. For badly scratched surfaces use a dab stick or aerosol can with colour matched paint. These are available from Elyision Ltd. or are available from other suppliers over the internet.

They will be able to provide the appropriate colour match to your original order. The effects of ultra violet light, pollution, dirt, grime and salt deposits are detrimental to a powder-coated surface as they accumulate over time. To extend the life of your products, a very simple maintenance program should always be implemented.

Location	Cleaning Intervals		
Internal	As required to maintain appearance or design		
Suburban or rural	6 - 12 month intervals (as appropriate to location and design)		
Industrial or urban	3-6 months		
Coastal or marine	3 Monthly		