



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF PACESETTER PAINTED PRODUCTS

1. INTRODUCTION

All organic surface coatings, liquid or powder will slowly degrade over time from the effect of natural weathering. However, a finish applied to correctly pre-treated metal will offer excellent adhesion and protection of the substrate and if properly and regularly maintained, can present new for many years.

As an example, cars can be seen as painted product, if a car was never cleaned it would be quite dirty and severely reduce the performance of the paint system applied.

The following document is a brief overview on maintenance of painted products. Please use as a guide only and refer to the paint / powder supplier for further details on care and maintenance advice.

2. GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Just as the paintwork on your car needs regular maintaining to stay looking in good condition, it is recommended that commercially painted products should also be regularly cleaned to remove air born deposits such as salt, atmospheric pollution or general dirt.

Cleaning should be done at three to six month intervals (depending on location i.e. seaside or inland, rural or industrial, etc.) and is often part of the regular cleaning program associated with items like glass in windows.

Where wind-blown salt and other pollutants may adhere to the surface, these areas are more at risk of coating degradation & should be inspected and cleaned if necessary on a more regular basis. Where the atmosphere is deemed to be non-hazardous, e.g. rural or 'normal' urban environments, then the period between cleaning can be extended up to a maximum of 12 months depending on the coating selection. However, if heavy soiling occurs more regular cleaning is required.

It is important you keep a schedule which lists every time your material is maintained and if there was anything out of the ordinary which required additional attention / solvents to be removed.

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The following procedure should be adopted for general maintenance:

- Step 1.** Remove dust with water and then a nonabrasive wet sponge rather than risk micro scratching the surface by dry dusting.
- Step 2.** Most marks or surface contaminants can be removed by the use of a warm, pH neutral detergent solution or mineral turpentine.
- Step 3.** Wash and remove soiled deposits from the powder coating surface using a soft bristle brush / sponge or similar.
- Step 4.** Always rinse afterwards with fresh water so that the contact time of the cleaning solution is kept to a minimum. Do not let the cleaning solution dry on the surface. We recommend doing small sections at a time for best results.

3. Frequency of Maintenance / Cleaning

It is important to inspect material on a regular basis to identify potential deposits that could cause damage if not removed within a short timeframe due to prolonged contact with either the powder film or the metal substrate.

The frequency of cleaning depends on the appearance that is required. Sheltered areas can be more at risk of coating degradation than exposed areas as contaminants and deposits will not be affected by rainfall.

If heavy soiling occurs more regular cleaning is required.

The classification of exterior environments is as defined in AS43122008.

Category (AS4312)	Corrosivity Level	Environmental Type	Required Cleaning
C1 & C2	Very Low & Low	Non-hazardous Environment	Every 12 months
C3/T	Medium	Typical Environment	Every 12 months
C4	High	Swimming & Leisure Pools / Light Industrial	Every 6 months
C4	High	Coastal Environment	Every 6 months
C5-M	Very High	Beach Front / Marine	Every 3 months
C5-I	Very High	Heavy Industrial Environment	Every 3 months

Important Precautions:

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1. Avoid harsh solvents such as those incorporated in many household cleaners such as window cleaner or industrial strength solvents. These tend to scratch the surface and in many cases promote premature degradation of the coating that is not necessarily noticeable immediately.
2. Ensure that the contact time of the cleaning agents is kept to a minimum.
3. When using spirits, it is recommended that it be undertaken in a shaded area and during cooler temperatures.
4. Avoid abrasive brushes or tools.
5. Test a small discrete surface to confirm the suitability of the cleaning agent used. This will ensure minimal or no damage to the powder coat colour or surface.
6. Some sealant and mastic manufacturers recommend solvents such as MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) to clean surfaces marked with their products. Under **no** circumstances should such solvents be used on exterior grade powders or paints.
7. Graffiti Removal – Polyurethane products only. Cleaning Graffiti on Pacesetter® Series Clear products sometimes can be removed by cleaning with Methylated Spirits. Methyl Isobutyl Ketone or other materials can be used but should be tested on small area first.

Reference should also be made to:

- a. AAMA 610.1 – Voluntary Guide Specification for cleaning and maintenance of painted Aluminium Extrusions and Curtain Wall / Aluminium Panels; and/or
- b. AS3715-2002 – Metal Finishing – Thermoset Powder Coatings for Architectural Coatings.

4. RESTORING WEATHERED/SCRATCHED SURFACES

Where practical, a suitable paint polish can be used to restore tired surfaces or areas that exhibit light scuff marks or scratches. Automotive polishes can be used for such surfaces since it is responsive and applied with relative ease.

Avoid using silicon or waxed based polish or other additives that will cause problems further on if recoating the particular surface is undertaken.

Appropriate directions are detailed on the container and must be adhered to ensure satisfactory results.



5. SMALL SPOT REPAIRS

Touch up blemishes or deep scratches can be performed with Pacesetter® 101 or touch up lacquers either by artist's brush or fine spray. Most colours have already been matched in spray packs and are available at trade centres or from Vertikote.

Alternatively, you may elect to have a specialist attend to your request by contacting Vertikote's mobile on-site team.

For further information on Field Repair's please contact our Technical Department.