

# CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF

*Alfred FR and Alfred Plate*

**alfrex**

Fire Resistant & Non-Combustible Cladding

Alfred, LLC (Alfred) Alfred FR aluminum composite and Alfred Plate panels are manufactured utilizing aluminum coils painted on continuous process coil coating lines. The high-quality architectural coatings used contain combinations of UV resistant resins, organic pigments, inorganic pigments, and protective clear coats engineered for long term exterior exposure in the elements and minimal maintenance.

Alfred recommends that panels be cleaned on a regular basis in order to maintain their aesthetic appearance and to prevent the accumulation of dirt and particulate present in the local environment. The frequency and degree of cleaning is dependent upon several factor including the building location, proximity to bodies of fresh water or the ocean, local climate, pollution levels, proximity to heavy industry, and overall air quality. A general practice is to clean panels at the same time a building's windows are cleaned.

## General Recommendations

- Always avoid the use of abrasive materials that pose a potential to scratch or degrade the painted surface of panels including, but not limited to, steel wool, wire brushes, metal scrapers, abrasive sponges, powder abrasives, and chemical abrasives.
- Commence cleaning at the bottom of building walls and progress upwards, working in the opposite direction of window cleaning, which traditionally progresses from top to bottom.
- To avoid streaking, cleaning should be done either on a cloudy day, or when areas of the building to be cleaned are shaded from direct sunlight.
- Regardless of the cleaning method used, the methods and materials should be first tested on either a product sample, or on a small, inconspicuous section of the building.
- Always start with a freshwater rinse and progress to the other cleaning methods from mildest to strongest as needed.
- It is recommended that more frequent cleaning intervals utilizing freshwater and mild detergents be employed as opposed to less frequent intervals which may require the use of harsher chemicals, solvents, and mild abrasive methods.
- NEVER use Acetone or Paint Removers on any painted product surface.
- Utilize personal protection equipment and proper safety precautions when handling solvents and other chemical agents to prevent chemical irritation or burns to the eyes, skin, or lungs.
- Follow closely cleaning product or chemical manufacturer recommendations regarding the mixing of certain chemicals in order to avoid the production of toxic gases or explosive chemical reactions.
- Only apply cleaning solutions, chemicals, or solvent solutions in conditions where panels can be rinsed with freshwater before the cleaning solution can dry. NEVER allow cleaning solutions to dry on the panels.

## Freshwater Rinse

- Frequent freshwater rinsing of panel surfaces is ideal for the removal of water-soluble dirt, residues, and other organic material deposits. Mechanical pressure washers should not be used as this may damage panels, coated surfaces, or components critical for the function of the panel assembly.
- Annual freshwater rinses may be mandatory as stipulated in finish warranties under certain environmental conditions, such as proximity to salt-water and ocean mist. Please consult warranties for specific details.
- If surface contaminants or stains persist after freshwater rinsing, then the utilization of mild detergents is recommended.

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## Mild Detergent Cleaning

- For more persistent areas requiring deeper cleaning, Alfred recommends that a 5% mild detergent solution diluted with freshwater be used and applied directly to the area using non-abrasive cloth, sponges, or soft bristle brushes.
- Mild detergents may be classified as those used in residential applications, commonly under popular brand names, which do not pose risks of irritation when coming in direct contact with exposed skin.

## Intense Cleaning

- More intense cleaning methods may be required when mild detergent solutions are not successful in the removal of stubborn stains, or areas where non water-soluble contaminants such as paint, oils, tar, dirt, graffiti, silicone, or other sealing compounds are present.
- Alfred recommends that a solution of Mirachem® 500 diluted to a 10% to 30% concentration be used before other common solvents or chemicals. Follow the manufacturer guidelines as well as the same processes detailed above in the general recommendations, always followed by a freshwater rinse.
- Solvents that may be used include alcohol solvents (ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, methanol), petroleum solvents (Turpentine, mineral spirits), aromatic solvents (xylene, toluene), ketones (MEK, MIBK), and esters (ethyl acetate, lacquer thinner). NEVER use acetones or paint removers.