

Industrial Technical Advice

1. Powder Coatings: Cleaning & Maintenance of Surfaces for Industrial use

Introduction

Maintaining the good looks of your powder coated products is just like caring for your car – and is a smart way to protect your investment. Over time with exposure to the elements, powder coatings may show signs of weathering such as loss of gloss, chalking and slight color change. A simple regular clean will minimize the effects of weathering and will remove dirt, grime and other build-up detrimental to all powder coatings.

Method

The best method of cleaning Interpon products is by regular washing of the coating using a solution of warm water and non-abrasive, pH mild detergent solution (pH 5 to 8). Surfaces should be thoroughly rinsed with fresh water after cleaning to remove all residues. All surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth/sponge or nothing harsher than a soft natural bristle brush.

Renovation can be required in the case of heavy soiling (due to lack of maintenance). It is then recommended to consult a specialized company.

Cleaning products

Regular maintenance can be done using water with mild detergent (pH 5 to 8). If the atmospheric pollution has resulted in heavy soiling of the coating, AkzoNobel should be contacted for guidance as to suitable cleaning methods and materials. In no circumstance should any abrasive cleaner or polish, or any cleaner containing ketones or esters be used.

Frequency

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

- The geographical location
- The environment surrounding the object
- Levels of atmospheric pollution
- Possibility of airborne debris (e.g., sand/dust etc.) causing erosive wear of the coating.

The frequency of cleaning depends in part on the standard of appearance that is required and the requirements to remove deposits, which could, during prolonged contact with either the powder film or the metal substrate, (if exposed) cause damage. In such circumstances, daily cleaning should be seriously considered.

Aggressive chemicals

Any aggressive chemical can seriously damage most surface coatings. In an environment where such materials are common, daily cleaning and maintenance is recommended. In the event of a significant spillage, the affected area should be rinsed and cleaned as soon as possible.

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

- Chlorinated Hydrocarbons
- Alkaline cleaners (pH >8)
- Esters
- Ketones
- Abrasive cleaner or polish

Recommended Powder Coatings cleaning frequency for Industrial use:

Environment	Corrosivity cat.	Examples	Recommended frequency
Exterior	C2 Low	Rural zones	Every 12 months
	C3 Medium	Light Industrial	Every 6 months
	C4 High	Industrials areas	Every 6 months
	C5 Industrial	Aggressive industrial areas	Every 3 months
	C5 Marine	Offshore, surf beaches	Every 3 months
Interior	C1 Very Low	Heated buildings	Every 12 months
	C2 Low	Non- heated buildings	Every 12 months
	C3 Medium	Laundries, food industry	Every 6 months
	C4 High	Swimming pools	Every 3 months

Version 2.7 dated 15.11.2018

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