

Anodized Cladding

Care & Maintenance Guide



Hurd
Windows and Doors

Table of Contents



Mother Nature doesn't cut corners and neither do we. Heavy-duty cladding. Brawny hardware. Performance glazing. Precision joints. Solid to the core. While Hurd windows and doors are crafted to withstand the test of time, here are some basic steps you can take to make sure your anodize windows never bow to the elements.

See our full Care & Maintenance Guide at www.hurd.com for complete instructions. This brochure is specific to exterior anodized aluminum care and maintenance only.

<i>General Notes.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Warranty Consideration.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Construction.....</i>	<i>4</i>

Cleaning

<i>General Notes.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Inspection.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Precautions.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Procedures.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Removing Light Surface Soil.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Removing Medium to Heavy Soil.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Warranty Information.....</i>	<i>10</i>

Five Free Anodizing Finishes From Hurd



General Care & Maintenance Notes

Safety first because we care! Please always consider your safety first when performing cleaning and maintenance.

Use caution on ladders, and always wear protective eyewear and clothing (gloves, long sleeve shirts, long pants.)

When working with cleaning solutions, follow all recommended safety precautions and dispose of these materials according to manufacturers' instructions.

Make sure your working area is clear of clutter or debris. Place drop clothes on the floor and furniture to protect your furnishings. Block off area to be worked in, if necessary. Protect exterior flower beds, shrubbery or decorative items during cleaning.



Warranty Consideration

Before starting this procedure, please note the following excerpt from your Hurd warranty:

22.) Damage caused by power washing, brick washing, acidic washing, or application or exposure to any chemicals, chemical fumes, or harsh or corrosive substance or environments (including, but not limited to, salt spray, airborne pollutants, mortar, mortar cleaner or alkali hydroxides) is not covered under warranty.

Construction

Masonry walls should be built well in advance of inserting frames into the wall to protect aluminum. This allows time for the mortar to cure and dry, which reduces the movement of alkalis. The frame is then attached with screws at the bottom, top, and sides. A 3/8" minimum to 1/2" maximum gap should be left around the frame. When filled backer rod and caulking, this gap separates the inside of the building from the outside, reduces wall stresses acting on the frame, and creates a barrier between the mortar and the window/door frame material.

Anything that directs moisture away from the frame reduces alkali exposure. Therefore, if it is possible to separate the frame from direct contact with the mortar by a sheet material (flashing), this can help reduce corrosion as well. Plastics, rubbers, and vinyl materials resistant to UV degradation and attack by alkalis are all acceptable. Please see Hurd's full installation instructions for proper flashing and rough opening preparations.

If the masonry wall is to be cleaned following construction, the aluminum must not be subjected to harsh chemicals and must be rinsed thoroughly. Clear water should remove any products used to clean the wall and any alkalis washed off the building face.

To protect aluminum frames in masonry walls:

- Temporary coatings (paper, cloth, or petroleum jelly) can provide protection during construction.*
- Place aluminum frames into walls after mortar has cured.*
- Separate frame and masonry with backer rod and caulking.*
- Remove fresh mortar from aluminum frames as quickly as possible.*

Cleaning: General Notes

As with any finished building material, anodized aluminum requires reasonable care prior to and during installation and periodic cleaning and maintenance after installation. Although anodized aluminum is exceptionally resistant to corrosion, discoloration and wear, its natural beauty can be marred by harsh chemicals, abuse or neglect. Such conditions usually affect only the surface finish but do not reduce the service life of the aluminum. All exterior surfaces collect varying amounts of soil and dirt, depending on geographic area, environmental conditions, finish and location on the building. The aluminum cleaning schedule should be integrated with other cleaning schedules for efficiency and economy. For example, both the glass and the aluminum curtain wall can be cleaned at the same time.

Cleaning may be required more often in one geographic area than another when appearance is of prime importance. More frequent cleaning will be required in heavy industrialized areas than in rural areas. Seasonal rainfall can affect washing frequency by removing water-soluble deposits and less adherent soil. In foggy coastal regions, frequent cycles of condensation and drying can create a heavy buildup of atmospheric salts and dirt, which may adhere tenaciously. In climates where the rainfall is low, the opportunity for atmospheric washing of the surface is minimal. In both wet and dry climates, recessed and sheltered areas generally become more heavily soiled because of the lack of rain-washing. More frequent and longer periods of condensation also occur in protected areas, increasing the adhesion of the soil. This is particularly true of soffit areas on overhangs, bottoms of fascia panels, sheltered column covers and the like. Periodic maintenance inhibits long-term accumulation of soil, which, under certain conditions, can accelerate weathering of the finish.

Inspection

It is recommended that the building owner or manager provide an engineer or other qualified representative to inspect the cleaning work. Care must be taken to see that metal seams, crevices, sills and other areas that may trap water, cleaner, or dirt are carefully cleaned and dried. These “trap” areas must be hand-wiped with absorbent towels or cloths to prevent rundown streaks or “pooling” which can later cause discoloration. A final inspection to ensure that no discoloration or stains remain on the surface is recommended.

Cleaning: Precautions

Never use aggressive alkaline or acid cleaners on aluminum surfaces. DO NOT use cleaners containing trisodium phosphate, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, fluorides, or similar compounds on anodized aluminum surfaces. Certain precautions must be taken when cleaning anodized aluminum surfaces. Strong solvents or abrasive cleaners can cause damage or painted surfaces. Always follow the cleaner manufacturer’s recommendations as to the proper cleaner and concentration. Test-clean a small area first. Never mix cleaners together.

Always rinse thoroughly after removal of any surface soil.

It is preferable to clean the aluminum surface when it is shaded. Do not attempt to clean hot, sun-heated surfaces since possible chemical reactions will be highly accelerated and cleaning non-uniformity could occur.



Cleaning: Procedures

Cleaning procedures for aluminum should be initiated as soon as possible to remove construction soils including concrete, mortar and accumulated environmental soils and discolorations.

Cleaning work should start at the top of the building and proceed to the ground level in a continuous dissention. Using a forceful water spray, an area the width of the stage or scaffolding should be rinsed as cleaning proceeds from the top down.

Because surface soils may be light or heavy, several progressively stronger cleaning procedures may be employed depending on the amount and type of soil. The simplest procedure to remove the soil is the one that should be trialed first.

Cleaning: Precautions (cont.)

Avoid cleaning in freezing temperatures or when metal temperatures are cold enough to cause condensation.

Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean water before applying cleaner. Apply the cleaning solution only to an area that can be easily cleaned without changing position. Minimize cleaner rundown over the lower portions of the building and rinse such areas as soon as practical.

Strong organic solvents, while not affecting anodized aluminum, may extract stain-producing chemicals from sealants and may affect the function of the sealants. Strong cleaners should not be used on window glass and other components where it is possible for the cleaner to come in contact with the aluminum. Excessive abrasive rubbing should not be used since it could damage the finish. Solutions of water and mild detergents should be tried first. If an aggressive cleaner is required for some other component of the building, care must be taken to prevent the cleaner from contacting the aluminum finish.

Note: Care should be taken to avoid over spray or run off of cleaner onto other buildings components such as glazing materials, weatherstripping sealants, etc.



Removing Light Surface Soil

Removal of light surface soil may be accomplished by alternative methods as described.

Mild soaps or detergents ruled safe for bare hands should be safe for coated aluminum. Stronger detergents should be carefully spot tested and may necessitate rubber gloves, long handled brushes, etc. With any soap or detergent the finish should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water and dried. Some mild cleaning solutions, comprised of selected wetting agents in water solution, are available for low pressure automatic-building-washing machines.

- 1. The simplest procedure is to flush the surface with water using moderate pressure to dislodge the soil. If soil is still adhering after drying, then a mild detergent will be necessary.*
- 2. When mild detergent or mild soap is necessary for removal of soil, it should be used with sponging. The washing should be done with uniform pressure, cleaning first with a horizontal motion and then with a vertical motion. Apply cleaners only to an area that can be conveniently cleaned without changing position. The surface must be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. It may be necessary to sponge the surface while rinsing, particularly if cleaner is permitted to dry on the surface. The rinsed surface is permitted to air dry or is wiped dry with a chamois, squeegee or lint-free cloth.*
- 3. Run-down of cleaner to the lower portions of the building should be minimized and these areas should be rinsed as soon as and as long as necessary to lessen streaking, etc., from unavoidable run-down, lower areas should be kept wet or flooded with water. Do not allow cleaning chemicals to collect on surfaces or to “pool” on horizontal surfaces, crevices, etc. These should be flushed with water and dried. Always clean coated surfaces down from top to bottom and follow with a thorough rinsing with clean water. (With one-story or low elevation buildings, it is recommended to clean from bottom up and rinse from top down.)*

Removing Medium to Heavy Surface Soil

If surface soil still adheres after using procedures described under the “Removing of Light Soil,” cleaning with the assistance of a cleaning pad can be employed. Hand scrub the metal surface using a palm-sized nylon cleaning pad. Thoroughly wet the pad with clean water or a mild detergent cleaner. Start across the top and work down, rubbing the metal surface in the direction of the metal grain with uniform pressure. After scrubbing, the metal surface should be rinsed thoroughly with clean water to remove all residues. It may be necessary to sponge the surface while rinsing, particularly if the cleaner is permitted to dry on the surface.

Anodized Appearance & Solar Heat

Anodized “crazing” defined as “the appearance of very fine lines in the coating when viewed in bright lighting at a specific angle” can be caused by solar heating when the temperature of the anodized piece reaches above 185° F. The “crazing” is not detrimental to the performance of the anodized coating. The appearance of the “crazing” can be removed by applying a light coat of mineral oil to the anodized surface. Use of a clean cloth dampened with mineral oil works well. Apply car wax to the treated area to obtain a lasting remedy to the appearance of crazing.



Warranty Information

Visit us online at www.hurd.com for full warranty information. Should you experience a problem with a Hurd window or door, contact your nearest Hurd distributor to assist you with a remedy.

What is perfection?



If you found a window company that gave you absolutely everything you wanted, wouldn't that be absolutely perfect? Welcome to Hurd. Our wood windows and patio doors are custom made with careful attention to every detail of fit and finish. You'll appreciate our distinctive designs, limitless options and our total commitment to one, critical ideal: Perfection.

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