



INSOL®

ARCHITECTURAL FACADE TREATMENTS

'With a little care and attention. Your Insol Façade will look as good in 25 years as it does today.

It's designed to last. That includes the parts you can't see, every nut, bolt, and connection. Everything is designed for the real test of craftsmanship, which is being able to gaze upon it with the next generation and (possibly not for the first time) say 'we did that.'

Greg Simmons, CEO



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Introduction

These general guidelines contain information regarding your Insol façade. They're designed to help protect your investment by maintaining the operational and structural integrity of your façade. They'll also help you maintain the aesthetic appeal by following a simple cleaning style.

Your Insol façade is intended to be *Low Maintenance*, not *No Maintenance*. Some care and attention are needed, so please familiarize yourself with these guidelines but remember they are general in nature. They are not designed to replace any specific instructions for *your façade*. The nature of creating customized facades means they'll always be something different. Therefore, these guidelines are supplementary to any specific instructions shared at the completion of your façade installation. They do not replace them.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the information to follow, please contact us.

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Recommended Cleaning Cycles

The quality of the environment and the aesthetic standard required will influence the frequency of routine cleaning cycles. We suggest adapting the cycle to suit your own standards, with the following serving as the minimum frequency required.

Industrialised, Coastal & Inner-City Locations

In areas where pollutants are common, such as industrial or geothermal areas, and for all sites within 1km from the sea or in any sea spray zone identified by Section 4.2 of NZS 36004:1999, the following recommended cleaning cycles apply.

Powder Coated Aluminium Surfaces	Every 2 Months
Anodised Aluminium Surfaces	Every 2 Months
Stainless Steel Mesh	Every 2 Months

All Other Locations

Powder Coated Aluminium Surfaces	Every 6 Months
Anodised Aluminium Surfaces	Every 6 Months
Stainless Steel Mesh	Every 6 Months

If during any cleaning cycle, you notice an increase in pollutants, or if the surface is harder to clean than usual, we recommend increasing the frequency.

Cleaning Instructions

With all surfaces, we recommend first cleaning a small area, away from visible sight, to make certain the cleaning solution and implements you are using do not cause any damage. If no issues are identified, then progress to the rest of the façade.

Cleaning Powder Coated Aluminium Surfaces

1. Remove any loose deposits with a wet sponge. Never dry dust or the surfaces will scratch. Remove any moss growth and ensure all drain holes are unblocked.
2. Using a soft brush and mild household detergent in fresh warm water, clean the surface to remove any dust, salt, or other deposits. Pay particular attention to any areas not washed naturally by the rain.
3. Rinse the façade well after cleaning, using fresh water to remove any remaining detergent.

Note: areas where rainfall does not clean the surface naturally will require more time, as any pollutants will likely be fixed firmer to the façade surface. But resist the urge to use a more abrasive cleaning product. A little patience will prevent any unnecessary damage.

Always

- Use a mild soap with warm water. Dishwashing liquid makes an ideal cleaner.
- Use a quality soft-bristled brush or cloth.
- Wash the entire façade with soapy water.
- Remove any debris from clogging drain holes or parts of the face which employ movement (i.e. sliding screen tracks)
- Use clean water to rinse the façade.
- Use a chamois leather (or similar) to dry the façade and avoid streaking.

Never

- Never use solvent cleaners. Common solvents like petrol, acetates, thinners and Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) are very damaging to powder coat finishes.
- Never use abrasive cleaning products or equipment (such as scouring pads).
- Never use highly acidic or alkaline cleaners.
- Never use high pressure cleaning equipment, such as water blasters.

Cleaning Anodised Aluminium Surfaces

Follow the same guidelines as for powder coated aluminium.

Where damage to an anodised aluminium surface is observed through neglect, it may be possible to restore the finish slightly with the use of solvent such as kerosene and a soft cloth. It should be noted you can damage the film beyond repair all too easily with the use of harsh abrasives.

Cleaning Stainless Steel Mesh

1. Rinse with fresh water to remove any loose dirt.
2. Wash with soapy water, detergent or 5% ammonia. The cleaner used needs to be multi-purpose and capable of removing salts.
3. Use a soft, long fibred brush to gently clean the mesh.
4. Rinse with clean water (ideally deionized water).
5. Allow to dry.

For persistent oil and dirt on the metal fabric, we suggest an environmentally safe cleaner is used.

If heavier soiling is present, use a pressure jet clean with hot water, followed by rubbing with a mild detergent cleaner for stainless steel. This must be followed by a rinse with fresh water and drying. The cleaner used should be safe for stainless steel and neutralise salts.

Normal domestic cleaners that contain harsh abrasives or chlorine compounds should be avoided.

General Protection of your Façade

It's important to limit the likelihood of damage to your façade from external factors. In particular:

- Avoid the façade coming in contact with Wet cement or plaster, paint splashes, chemicals, solvents, stains and fertilisers.
- Copper, brass, lead, mild steel, CCA treated timber, cement or concrete less than one month old, and water which has contacted any of these substances.

If contact with any contaminants does occur, it is important to remove them immediately and wash the façade as described in the cleaning procedure below.

Tightening & Checking of Connections

Over time, bolts and fastenings can loosen. Spontaneous loosening, also referred to as rotational self-loosening, can occur as a result of shock or vibration. Where a façade is in a high wind zone there is a greater risk of this occurring, and more attention should be given to connections.

In the event of your façade sustaining any damage, the situation must be made safe immediately and appropriate repairs and maintenance carried out as soon as practicably possible by an Insol approved technician.

Moveable Facades

Facades with an operable or moveable function, such as sliding or pivoting, must be tested regularly for correct operation.

Any malfunction, incorrect operation or resultant damage of your façade should receive the appropriate attention immediately. This includes:

- Making safe any fault or hazard which threatens the health and safety of those nearby.
- Repairing any damage (and related wear and tear) as soon as practicably possible.
- Isolating and disabling any operable functions until appropriate repairs and maintenance are completed.

Sliding Screens

These should be inspected at the same time as the cleaning cycle. In all cases, they should be inspected at least every 6 months.

- Ensure all sliding mechanisms are clear of debris, taking special care to check the top and bottom rails are clear.
- Check all drainage holes are clear of debris and blockages.
- Ensure all latches and lock mechanisms are operating correctly.

Where inspections are completed via high rope operations, it's important to never push off the screen with your body weight when descending.

Pivot Screens

All pivot screens should be inspected at least every 3 months.

- Ensure the pivot screens are clear of any debris which may obstruct normal operational movement.
- Moving parts and connected fittings must be inspected periodically, with any damage or wear and tear rectified immediately.
- Pay particular attention to pivots and axles during the inspection.

Pivot screens may become stiff. It is important to fully open and shut them at least once per week. As with sliding screens and high rope operations it's important to never push off the screen with your body weight when descending.

Excessive Loadings

Please ensure your façade is not subjected to any loading over and above the intended design parameters. Doing so may easily result in damage.

Instances of loading which can cause damage to the façade include, but are not limited to:

- Abseiling
- Ladders
- Supporting the weight of any personnel or equipment
- Support of any substructures, screening, lighting, or planting
- Exceptional environmental events

Following an exceptional event, such as an earthquake or particularly strong storm patten, the façade should be inspected by a competent person. Any damage which presents a threat to general health and safety should be made safe immediately, and all damage rectified as soon as is practicably possible.