

Cleaning finished aluminum and reducing the spread of COVID-19

With very little effort, finished architectural aluminum products can maintain their performance and appearance for many years, while supporting health, safety and wellness.

Hard, nonporous, finished, architectural aluminum products are generally easy to clean and to keep clean. Regularly scheduled cleaning helps extend the longevity of these durable products. In high-traffic and public areas, where people may lean, sit and touch exposed surfaces, more frequent cleaning may be recommended.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [recently published](#) “Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes.” It states:

“Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects.

Normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes germs and dirt from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.

Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, you can further lower the risk of spreading infection.”

The most simple cleaning method of anodized or painted aluminum is to flush the finished surface with water using moderate pressure to remove dirt and soil. If the dirt is still adhering after the finished surface is dry, then a mild cleaning solution may be used. Choose a gentle soap solution that is safe for bare hands and apply with a soft cloth, sponge or brush.

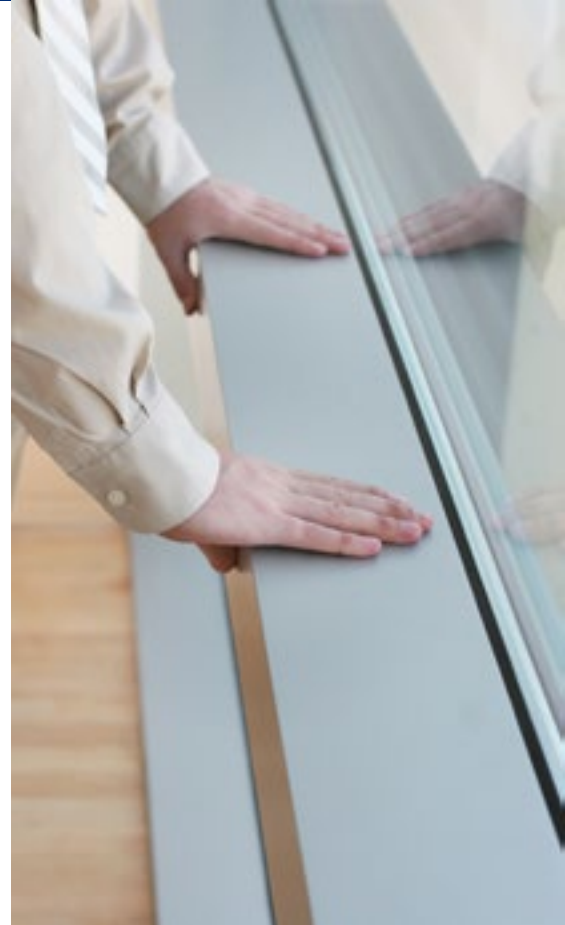
The CDC/EPA guide also notes:

- 1. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water will decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.**
- 2. Disinfection using [EPA-approved disinfectants](#) against COVID-19 also can help reduce the risk. Frequent disinfection of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people is important.**
- 3. When EPA-approved disinfectants are not available, isopropyl or denatured alcohol or alternative disinfectants safe for finished aluminum can be used.**

To avoid damaging your finished aluminum, do not use strong acid or alkali cleaners including bleach. Also, do not use abrasive materials and methods. Gently clean the finished surface, thoroughly rinse with clean water and dry with a soft cloth. Always test cleaning agents in an inconspicuous area before using on a large scale.

Remember, misusing cleaning agents could result in voiding a warranty. If in doubt, ask first.

Please [download](#) our “Care of Finished Aluminum Guide” for additional information on caring for your finished aluminum, or contact your [inside sales representative](#) with specific questions.



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