

Cleaning & Maintenance Guide

PaneLux® A1 Solid Aluminium Cladding System

Version: V1.1 – 042026

Version Date: 01/04/2026



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Regular cleaning not only preserves the visual appeal and professional finish of the PaneLux® A1 Solid Aluminium Cladding System but also protects their value and extends service life by removing dirt and corrosive deposits that rainwater cannot eliminate.

Routine Inspections

Periodic inspections should be carried out to identify maintenance needs. Key areas to check include:

- a) Surface Dirt – Remove any visible dirt or buildup.
- b) Scratches and Dents – Identify and repair any surface damage.
- c) Sealant Joints – Inspect for failures and carry out necessary repairs.

Where possible, schedule cleaning to coincide with other façade maintenance, such as cleaning of glass and painted aluminium elements.

Recommended Cleaning Frequency

- In urban or low-pollution areas, clean at least once every 12 months.
- In coastal, industrial, or high-corrosion environments, clean at least every 6 months.

Note on Sheltered Areas

Unwashed areas (soffits, under eaves, behind fins, plant rooms, podium recesses) are considered higher risk and should be inspected and cleaned more frequently than exposed rain-washed façades.

	Example Environments	Recommended Minimum Cleaning
Conditions	Arid, dry, urban, inland, city	Every 12 months
	Mild	Light industrial, geothermal (>500m from source) and inland coastal (mild sea spray zone)
Severe	Sea shore (medium sea spray zone), offshore Islands and or geothermal (<500m from source)	Every 6 months
	Sea shore (high sea spray zone e.g., surf), offshore Islands	Every 6 months
	Heavy industrial, airport, transport hubs	Every 6 months
General Interior	Dry interiors (homes, offices, shops)	Every 12 months
	Minor condensation (warehouses, sports halls)	Every 12 months
Moderate Interior	High moisture (dairy and food processing plants, breweries, and commercial laundries)	Every 6 months
	Significant contamination (swimming pools)	Every 6 months

Environmental severity broadly aligns with ISO 12944 and AS/NZS 2312 atmospheric corrosivity categories.

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- Panels installed in vehicle wash environments, including marine wash-down facilities, must be cleaned at least fortnightly.

Key Notes for Cleaning Aluminium Panels

- Always begin with a trial clean on a small, inconspicuous area.
- Avoid cleaning panels when surface temperatures are high, as this can cause streaking or staining.
- Where possible, start on the shaded side of the building and work in moderate temperatures.
- Follow the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for any cleaning products used. Always wear appropriate PPE.
- Begin with a freshwater rinse, then escalate to stronger cleaning methods only if necessary, starting from the mildest.
- Do not use harsh organic solvents (e.g., MEK, MIBK, Triclene, paint thinners).
- Avoid highly alkaline or acidic agents, including potassium hydroxide, caustic soda, and abrasive cleaners such as Ajax or Jif.
- Do not use abrasive tools like wire brushes, steel wool, sandpaper, or gritty cloths. Use soft sponges, cloths, or brushes free from grit.
- For light surface soiling, use a mild detergent (pH 5–10). Example: [Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid SDS](#).
- Prevent drips, splashes, and solution runoff—clean any residues promptly.
- Remove construction soils (e.g., concrete or mortar runoff) quickly to prevent staining.
- Do not let cleaning solutions sit on the surface for extended periods, as this can dull the panel's gloss.

Cleaning Process - *Applicable for Lumiflon-based fluoropolymer coatings*

Recommended Products:

- Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid or similar mild detergent (pH 5-10)
- 3M Sharpshooter ([Product info](#))

During and Post-Construction Care

- Protective film should remain during construction for up to six months to prevent staining.
- Promptly clean any sealant or machine oil stains before they cure using appropriate non-abrasive detergents.
- Avoid excessive rubbing, as it can affect the panel's gloss.

Light Surface Dirt/Soiling

Rinse with clean water and wipe using a soft sponge and gentle pressure.

If dirt remains:

- Prepare a diluted solution (1:5 ratio) – 50–250 ml detergent (pH 5–10) per 5 L water.
- Apply to the panel with a soft cloth or sponge.
- Leave for about 1 minute, rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- Dry using a squeegee, followed by a final wipe with a wet towel.
- Repeat if necessary.

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Medium to Heavy Surface Dirt/Soiling

- Use 3M Sharpshooter (pH approximately 12) or similar commercial cleaning products suitable for fluoropolymer coated aluminium surfaces. Always test on a small inconspicuous area first.
- Test in a small, inconspicuous area first.
- Apply using a sprayer, sponge, or towel.
- Lightly rub with a soft cloth to remove build up.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water and wipe down.
- Repeat if needed.

Graffiti Removal

While Mulford does not recommend the use of solvents as a first option for graffiti removal, in most cases, panel replacement is more costly and disruptive. If graffiti removal is required, we advise proceeding with care and recommend consulting Mulford New Zealand or Australia for guidance.

Important: Always test any cleaning method on a small, inconspicuous area first to ensure there is no damage to the panel's finish.

You may refer to the **CANTAC Citrus Cleaner Technical Data Sheet:**

[CANTAC Citrus Cleaner TDS – glueguru.co.nz](http://glueguru.co.nz)

Graffiti Removal Procedure

1. **Initial Rinse:**
Remove coarse dirt particles using water to avoid surface abrasion. Wipe the panel dry with a clean cloth.
2. **Apply Cleaner:**
Use solvent-impregnated cotton pads or apply CANTAC Citrus Cleaner using a soft towel or cotton pads.
3. **Dissolve the Graffiti:**
Gently rub the cleaner over the affected area until the graffiti begins to dissolve.
4. **Remove Residue:**
Wipe off the dissolved graffiti and cleaner using dry cotton pads or a soft towel, changing them frequently to avoid smearing.
5. **Final Wipe:**
Repeat the wipe using fresh cotton pads lightly dampened with the solvent or citrus cleaner to remove any remaining residue.
6. **Drying Period:**
Allow the lacquered surface to dry undisturbed for at least 24 hours to preserve the integrity of the coating.
7. **Repeat if Needed:**
If graffiti remains, repeat the cleaning process.
8. **Polishing (if required):**
If shadowing persists, a car polish cutting compound may be used. Always test on a small area first.

Note: Residual "shadowing" may remain on the lacquered surface due to the nature of migratory organic dyes used in some spray paints.

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Recommended Solvents

(Use only in well-ventilated areas and follow all manufacturer health and safety guidelines – these solvents are flammable.)

- Ethyl Alcohol (Methylated Spirits)
- Methyl Glycol Acetate
- Hexane (Naphtha/Solvent Naphtha)
- CANTAC Citrus Cleaner (preferred) – refer to [TDS](#)

Note: This document is uncontrolled in printed format. Always refer to the latest digital version or contact Mulford New Zealand or Australia for current advice.

Compliance with this Cleaning and Maintenance Guide forms part of the 'normal maintenance' requirement under the PaneLux® A1 warranty. Failure to carry out periodic inspection and cleaning in accordance with this document may affect long-term performance and warranty entitlement.

Building owners should retain records of inspection and cleaning, including dates, methods and cleaning agents used, for the duration of the warranty period.

Maintenance responsibility

Regular inspection and cleaning form part of the normal building maintenance programme. Failure to maintain the cladding system in accordance with this guide may result in surface staining, coating deterioration or reduced service life. Mulford New Zealand does not accept responsibility for coating or performance issues arising from lack of maintenance, environmental contamination, or failure to follow the recommended cleaning procedures. More frequent inspection and cleaning may be required in coastal, industrial or high-pollution environments.