

Maintenance of PVDF (PVF₂) Paint Finishes

The PVDF paint system is a highly durable and decorative finish which requires nothing more than regular washing with water to enhance life and maintain attractiveness for long periods.

Washing should be done at least every 3-6 months. In coastal areas where marine salt spray is prevalent and in areas where high industrial fallout occurs this maintenance washing should be carried out more frequently. Consider the maintenance schedule frequency to prevent the accumulation of salty deposits or industrial dirt. Increased regular maintenance is required on areas not naturally washed by rain, conversely areas regularly washed by rain require less maintenance.

In cases where regular maintenance referred to above does not remove all of the dirt which may have adhered to the surface of the paint, the following procedure should be carried out:

- a) Wash the paint surface with a mild solution of pure soap or non-abrasive kitchen detergent diluted with warm water. Application should be with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle nylon brush and should be gentle to prevent shiny pressure spots.

Vertical panels should be washed from the bottom up to avoid streaking and should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water immediately after washing to remove all traces of detergent.

- b) **Never** use abrasive or solvent type cleaners (turps, petrol or kerosene) on PVDF painted SymoniteHD surfaces.
- c) A citrus based cleaner maybe necessary on some stubborn markings and should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water immediately to remove all traces of the cleaner.



Maintenance of Mill Finish Aluminium

As a result of natural weathering (i.e. superficial corrosion) natural aluminium takes on a light white to mid grey appearance. For applications as a cladding material, mill finished will weather naturally unless coated with a clear protective paint finish. This weathered appearance will be acceptable unless the level of weathering has provided a base for the unsightly accumulation of dirt and grime.

The following basic recommendation can be offered for maintaining mill finish SymoniteHD:

- a) Regular moderate cleaning is better than infrequent intense cleaning. Neglected soil accumulation can accelerate weathering or destructive corrosion considerably. Generally when cleaning aluminium the mildest treatment should be attempted first. If this is not successful then the next level of cleaning should be attempted. The cleaning agent to be used should always be tested on an inconspicuous area.
- b) The moderate cleaning procedure is as follows. Wash with soap and water, drying with a soft cloth. If dirt build-up is not removed a mildly abrasive cleaner might be considered. A stiff fibre brush may be used if dirt build-up is excessive. Stainless steel wire brushes should *not* be used.

The following is a shortened list of cleaners listed from the mildest to the strongest and should be taken as a suggestion option only. In all cases a trial should be carried out to establish whether the desired result can be achieved:

- a) **Mild Soaps:** Lux soap flakes, sunlight soap
- b) **Kitchen Detergents:** Palmolive dishwashing liquid, Trix dishwashing liquid, Sunlight dishwashing liquid
- c) **Laundry Detergents:** Cold Power, Omo washing powder, Ajax laundry powder, Fab laundry detergent
- d) **Industrial Detergents:** Teepol, B.P Comprox, Spandex citrus based adhesive remover
- e) **Mild Abrasive Cleaners:**
 - Oil based – Deep Gloss Carnu, Tri-Me Cleaner
 - Soap based – Gumption, Lily White, Bon-Ami

Removal of Graffiti from PVDF Painted Surfaces

The steps laid out below will allow you to almost completely remove graffiti that has been sprayed onto PVDF painted SymoniteHD Composite Decorative Panels.

We recommend that before proceeding to clean the whole affected area, you first try the cleaning method on a small test surface.

1. Remove any large particles, such as dirt or grit, by hosing off with water, and then dry the panels with a soft micro fibre cloth to avoid scratching the painted surface.
2. By using solvent impregnated cotton wool, remove the graffiti. (For suitable solvents see The Solvent Recommendation table below).
3. Use dry cotton wool to remove the mixture of solvent and graffiti lacquer, changing the cotton wool frequently.
4. Using cotton wool impregnated with solvent, repeat the process until all the residual lacquer is removed.
5. The SymoniteHD panels should be allowed to dry for at least 24 hours, regardless of the result of the cleaning process, this is so that the life of the PVDF finish will not be affected.

If after these steps are followed, there are still signs of the graffiti remaining, repeat the stages 2 – 4 again.

Caution:

The solvents listed in the below tables are inflammable, use only in a well-ventilated area and do not smoke whilst using these solvents or in close proximity.

	Hexane (Naphtha solvent + Naphtha)	Ethyl Alcohol (Methylated Spirit)	Methyl-Glycol acetate
PVDF	√	√	√
PE	√	√	√
SPE	√	√	X

- √ = Suitable for use in steps 1 to 5
- X = Not suitable

Remarks:

There may well be shadows of the graffiti remaining on the SymoniteHD Panels after cleaning; this is the result of migratory pigments (organic dyes) that are in the makeup of the spray lacquer colours, however, these dyes have very poor U.V. stability, and by their nature should disappear.

The processes outlined in this guide have been carefully tested by Symonite. We accept no liability.

