Maintenance of anodised aluminium

Electrochemical surface treatment, also referred to as anodising, is a process of increasing the natural oxide layer formed on the aluminium surface when it comes into contact with oxygen. The colour of the oxide layer can be natural or dyed with inorganic salts.

The colour of the anodising does not affect the maintenance of the surface, but the maintenance of anodised surfaces is very different from maintenance of untreated aluminium.

All surfaces get soiled over time, and this can affect the surface. The degree of soiling varies due to environment, exposure and the angle of the surface. Expect to clean the surface approximately once a year.

pH-values below 5 or above 8 dissolves aluminium oxide, and chemicals in these ranges will cause lasting damage to the surface.

If a façade combines different surfaces, e.g. anodised cassettes and powder coated window frames, it is important to use a cleaning agent that does not harm other elements of the façade.

Methods

The most common methods for cleaning anodised surfaces are a soft brush or a high-pressure cleaner. However, it is important that the aluminium can withstand the pressure from the high-pressure cleaner, as it can cause lasting damage to the surface.

The cleaning agent and the size of the surface determines the best method.

Cleaning agents

Use only cleaning agents that are designed for anodised surfaces and always follow the directions on the product regarding dosage and method.

Before choosing the product, it is important to decide whether the cleaning is a deep clean or a maintenance cleaning. Some cleaning products contain maintenance additives that must be adjusted for each task.

It is recommended to use products that are GRM approved (Gütegemeinschaft Reinigung von Fassaden) and suitable for anodised surfaces.