

Cleaning & Maintenance

This guidance is for cleaning & maintenance information for the consumer. For cleaning advice during installation, please read installation guidance or the product guide.

Cleaning

General information about detergents

Detergents may seem irritating to the skin, the higher or lower pH value they have. Lukewarm water is for regular cleaning. Gloves should be used for prolonged contact with concentrated products or solutions, as the cleaning agents can dry out the skin. Be careful with inhalation of aerosols (shower / spray bottle) as these may irritate the mucous membranes. Common to all detergents is that one must follow the instructions carefully.

Good advice

Always apply the detergent to the most "stained" area first and wipe these areas last so that the detergent will last for the longest time to work before drying out.

Daily / weekly cleaning

Alkaline - neutral detergent with pH value 7-10 and lukewarm water

Residues of soap and skin fat

Use "acid" detergent with pH 3-5. Or use "spray products" that dissolve fat - or careful use of "scouring creams". Chlorine diluted in water is also recommended for this purpose, rinse off with water after max 30-60 minutes.

Stain / Problem Spots

Spray products and liquid scouring creams are suitable for stain removal. The spray products are best suited because they do not contain water-soluble minerals. - Abrasives containing this must be rinsed or wiped off. Microfiber cloths with "fleece solvents" can also be used. In difficult spots, allow detergent to work, work area with washing pad, cloth, or similar. Melamine sponges together with dishwasher soap can be used on stains on structures such as GEM, C and STN.

Aluminum Profiles

There should be no corrosion as long as the pH of the detergent is above 4 or below 9. If chlorine is used on the profiles and rinses clean afterwards, it should also work well.

Alkaline cleaner should be used with caution. There are mild alkaline cleaners designed for cleaning aluminum.

Sealant

Soap and skin residue should be removed from the sealant frequently to avoid fungi growth.

If sealant is damaged it must be replaced according to the technical datasheet of the sealant.

Not doing so could void your warranty.

Absolute lack of UV rays can change the color of the product somewhat. Chemicals in the air can also cause coloration in different colors. For instance, gassing from nearby curing concrete is known to give a similar coloration. Technical characteristics do not change.

To treat discolored sealant (less frequent cleaning) bleaching of the sealant is okay. Use 50/50 chlorinated water. Leave it on for max 30 minutes, you might have to do this twice.

What is very important is that after cleaning with bleach, is to thoroughly rinse with water, so that no remains of bleach is left on the sealant. Limited use of chlorine like this is okay, but prolonged use should be avoided. Exposing the sealant to UV light also helps to some degree.

Over time the sealant may become brittle or damaged or partly peel away and therefore should be inspected routinely. As sealant degrades it will become more susceptible to mold infestation.

The sealant should also be cleaned regularly with the panels to prevent mold growth - particularly the bead of sealant at the base of the panels and in the hidden corner profile where water is most likely to pool. If the mold cannot be removed by cleaning and becomes impregnated in the sealant, then the sealant may need to be replaced.

If the sealant is damaged or breaks free from the panel surface, then it must be treated immediately. Replacing the sealant will take a bit of time and effort.



Maintenance

Replacing Sealant

1. Wash the area including the panels adjoining the sealant to clean off any grime and soap scum. This is an important initial step as it is best not to clean the panel after the sealant has been removed and the panel is exposed. Allow the area to completely dry.
2. There are a number of products that will loosen sealant including Soudal Sealant Remover or WD-40®. Whilst not essential, these will help loosen the sealant from the surfaces to which it is attached.
3. Slide a Stanley knife or razor down the length of the caulk seam on one side of the bead. Hold the tool so the blade doesn't cut into the panel or the floor, but cuts near to it instead (at the base). The aim is to cut the sealant loose on the first edge, without cutting through the entire bead or down into the joint.
4. Switch to the opposite side of the sealant bead and repeat the process, slicing through a point very close to where the sealant bonds to the tile. Avoid cutting so deeply that sealant bead is completely removed. Using just the tip of the knife on each side of the bead is enough.
5. Grab a loose edge of the sealant bead and peel it up and away from the floor, which should draw out the sealant that filled the joint as well, not just the visible portion of the sealant bead. Use a plastic scraper to remove any remaining traces.
6. Wipe the area where the sealant was present clean and apply new sealant.

Chips and Scratches

Small chips and scratches can be repaired by using a laminate repair kit, such as 'Unika Colorfill'; generally available on-line. Alternatively, a hard setting epoxy filler with an enamel paint can be used. Use a spatula to press filler into the chipped area, wipe away any excess. Once the filler has dried paint over the filler; if the paint comes in a spray can, then spray a small amount of paint into the lid of the can then use a fine brush or ear bud to apply. Matching colors may be difficult. It is possible with some repair products to mix colors to create a broader spectrum of colors. Note, that in most cases small scratches and chips should not affect the waterproofing properties of the panel. If unsure whether the waterproofing of the panel is affected, then either ensure the affected area remains dry or if that is not possible cover the damage with a temporary sealant until it can be properly assessed or repaired.

Aluminum Profiles

These are either powder coated or anodized and should remain free of any corrosion with normal usage. Aluminum is susceptible to corrode or become pitted if exposed to either low pH (acidic below pH 4) or high pH (alkaline over pH9). Strong acidic or alkaline cleaners should always be avoided. Small chips in the powder coating can be repaired using auto enamel paints, however it may not be possible to achieve an identical match to the powder coated finish, because of the baking process used in powder coating that cannot be replicated in-situ.

Please see [fibosystemusa.com](https://www.fibosystemusa.com) for valid Cleaning & Maintenance document and warranty conditions.

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