

Manual for maintenance of aluminium fittings



ADAR
serramenti e porte

Aluminium Windows and Doors

Particularly attractive for its lightness, elegance and above all for its flexibility, the use of aluminium is constantly increasing in the world of architecture, furnishing and design in general. The features that have brought about this success in recent years are performance and durability, reduced maintenance, qualities of thermal and acoustic insulation, and are air- and water-proof.

Rules

The following are the rules recommended for a life-long guarantee for casements:

1. Recognize the chemical/physical characteristics of the constructing material used in casements.
2. Carry out periodically the normal cleaning operations with non-aggressive products.
3. Programme maintenance of casements.
4. Follow all indications and specifications supplied by manufacturer.
5. Ensure cleaning of water-evacuation system is effected.
6. Check condition of seals.
7. Check oiling and adjustment of metal-work.

Frame, Sealings, metal-work

Do NOT clean as follows:

- Use of tools with sharp or cutting edges such as knives, metal spatules, wire-wool, metal brushes as these would damage the surfaces.
- Use of aggressive chemical products such as solvents, spirit, alkaline or acid-based solutions.

The best way to clean a window is to clean the frame and seals with a product normally used for cleaning car windows.

Use a neutral and non-abrasive product.

Difficult marks, plaster or mortar or similar residue can be easily removed with a wooden or plastic brush

Stains are better removed with a car-polish.

Cleaning frequency depends on atmospheric conditions of place of instalment. For example,

- Damp
- Industrial and smoke fumes, etc.
- Substances containing chlorine (present in particular in areas up to 1500 m. from the sea, and in industrial composite fumes etc.)

Cleaning is recommended in the two following steps:

- Every 3-6 months in areas with little industrial pollution or further from sea.
- Every 1-3 months in areas with heavy traffic and/or industrial pollution and/or near the sea.

In addition to routine cleaning and maintenance your aluminium doors and windows should undergo a “brief inspection” every year. This increases durability of fitting and preserves its efficiency.

Blocked drip holes can be cleaned with a narrow wooden or plastic stick. Remove dust and grime from lower frame track with a vacuum cleaner. Smear the seals with Vaseline or appropriate silicone spray. Check that seals are not damaged. Replace any eventual seals damaged by the fitter.

Moving parts of the equipment do not require any special maintenance. Acid-free grease or oil can facilitate manoeuvring of the entire mechanism guaranteeing long and easy use of fitting.

Spray oil on shutting rollers, joints and connecting parts.

Spray only a light film where necessary to avoid dripping that could require further cleaning.

The shutting rods, sliding tracks and corners have been oiled during manufacture and need no further maintenance.

Clutch on hanging fittings are complete with sliding blocks that provide friction. Do not oil the clutch.

General tips

Adequate ventilation prevents damage caused by damp.

In a household there are several sources of damp:

- Steam is produced in the kitchen and bathroom
- House-plants and even people continually emit humidity. Humidity in the air is deposited on windows in a particular way that forms condensation. This humidity can give rise to damp walls, residue marks and mould.
- During the course of the day air the room several times for at least 5 minutes, depending on use of room
- Avoid airing room for long periods when heating is on.

This brief and repeated airing of rooms represents a low consumption of fuel, limiting loss of heat and at the same time guaranteeing an efficient change of air. The level of humidity in the air will also return to normal.

Roller-blinds and rod boxes

Replacement of roller-blinds or single slats

On deterioration of fittings it is advisable to replace roller-blind or part of it (single slats); this operation is to be carried out by a specialized fitter, who can decide on work to be done.

How to replace the roller-blind cord

Before starting ensure that the blind is completely unrolled and procure a cord of the same length as that to be replaced.

Note: to calculate length of your cord, measure height of window (from box to sill) and multiply by 2. If your blind is fitted with a pulley in the box, multiply height of window by 3.

Steps to follow:

- Open cover of rod box and block the raised blind (E.g. with a chisel);
- Cut the cord on the side of the pulley and pull cord out from box;
- Tie a knot in the cord to prevent it winding up completely inside the wall plaque;
- Take the new cord and insert end into rod in the box and thread it through the slot which you will find beside the rod, and tie a firm knot;
- With the blind still blocked, pass the cord through the slot in the box;
- Keeping the rod firmly beside the plaque, and unwind the old cord.

WARNING: While unwinding the cord the rod coil is loading so it must be kept still and firm as it can cut.

- Unwind completely the cord, unscrew the screw holding the cord extremity to the rod;

WARNING: Keep a firm hold on the rod, because at this stage it can easily cut.

- Wind up the end of the new cord, hanging from the rod box, on the external plaque rod, being careful that the coil doesn't cut;
- Insert the plaque in the wall and tighten with screw previously removed;
- Free the blind and test by raising and lowering it;
- Close cover of rod box.
- Maintenance of rod box cover

It is necessary to carry out careful maintenance of rod box cover as for other product parts.

It is also necessary to carry out normal cleaning operations outside and inside, opening the accessible part of box.

From the inside of box it is also useful to periodically inspect the fastening of this to the surrounding parts.