



LONGBOARD®

CLEANING GUIDE



GENERAL INFORMATION

While Longboard Finishes require zero maintenance, we do recommend periodic cleaning to keep the product looking its best. Our coating finish is tested to withstand corrosion, fading and normal wear; however, neglect and rough conditions could have negative effects on the surface finish of your product.

These effects will not negate the structural performance of the product, but prolonged exposure to these conditions may result in permanent markings or surface damage.

Aluminum products are not known to collect a lot of dirt or dust, and in most scenarios the natural dirt collection will not harm your Longboard coatings. However, regular cleaning will improve the look of your Longboard as well as the longevity of your product. In some extreme instances the failure to clean the surface of your Longboard may null the product warranty.

Geographical location may have an impact on how often you should clean your Longboard Products. Below are some examples of this:





COASTAL REGIONS

Locations on a coast are more prone to fog, and salt spray. Moisture of this type can lead to a heavy build-up of dirt and salt. This can be hard to remove if not cleaned regularly.

HIGH RAIN FREQUENCY REGIONS

Heavy rain can clean the surface of your Longboard products of natural dirt and debris. This results in a lesser need to clean the product as frequently as other regions. However, if the Longboard is installed in a soffit, or covered area limiting the exposure to rain, this may result in higher levels of condensation. These areas should be cleaned regularly to avoid excess build up.



METROPOLITAN REGIONS

Structures existing in a metropolitan area that have exterior Longboard products installed should be cleaned more often than structures that exist in rural areas. This is due to smog and other natural industrial dirt that are present in a city atmosphere.

DRY REGIONS

In areas where there is little to zero rain, cleaning should be scheduled on a more frequent basis as there will be a lack of natural rain washing.





INITIAL CLEANING

AFTER INSTALLATION



Cleaning should be done in mild weather, and never in direct sunlight if avoidable. Always complete a test patch on an inconspicuous area to ensure your detergent is suitable for the surface.

Your Longboard products should be cleaned immediately after installation. This is to remove any construction soils such as oils or concrete residue. How to complete this initial cleaning depends on the level of dirt and the nature of the soil. See below for our suggestions based on soil level:



LIGHT SURFACE SOIL LEVEL

Start your cleaning at the top of the building and work your way down. For light soil levels you can use moderate water pressure to dislodge the dirt. If some dirt is still sticking to the Longboard a soft sponge/brush and a mild detergent with uniform pressure first wiping vertically and then horizontally. After cleaning thoroughly rinse the surface with water ensuring no soap is stuck in any crevasses or joints. You can let the Longboard air dry or use a dry cloth or a squeegee.

Some special considerations to take when using a mild detergent is to make sure the soap does not run down the boards to another section. This can increase the likelihood of soap getting into the joints. Work in small sections, not allowing the soap to drip. If dripping is unavoidable keep the bottom sections of the product wet or flooded to avoid streaking. Do not allow the detergent to pool anywhere on the Longboard surface.

When picking a mild detergent use the following rule. Anything safe for your hands will be safe on your Longboard surface.



MEDIUM SURFACE SOIL

If the dirt is still stuck on the surface after the use of mild detergent you may use the assistance of a cleaning pad. Hand scrub the surfaces using a nylon cleaning pad. Rub the pad on the Longboard with soft pressure following the woodgrain pattern. Rinse thoroughly with water. You may want to use a sponge to rinse to ensure all soap residue is removed.



HEAVY SURFACE SOIL

If the soil level is not removed with a nylon pad a more aggressive solvent may have to be used to clean the Longboard. However, the use of solvents may deteriorate the coatings with prolonged use. As noted above a test patch should always be performed on a sample piece prior to cleaning the façade.

As a general rule never mix cleaners as this may cause a chemical reactions resulting in damage to the coating or a toxic gas emission. Also, always rinse the Longboard surface after any cleaning.

After cleaning it is recommended that an inspection be done to check the seams, sills, and any crevasse for water. Any pooling in these areas should be wiped up. Before you allow the boards to dry you should ensure you're happy with the appearance of the Longboard. If there is any discoloration from leftover dirt or residue this should be cleaned off before drying.

SOME PRECAUTIONS



Never use aggressive acid or alkaline cleaners on Longboard finishes. Do not use cleaners containing Tri-Sodium Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Hydrofluoric Acid, fluorides or any other compound that is known to react with metal.

Always follow the cleaner's instructions for dilution. Cleaning the surface with a cleanser that is not diluted may result in damage to the coating. Always do a test patch before cleaning in large sections.

It is preferable to clean your Longboard product on a shaded day. Cleaning in direct sunlight can cause cleanser or dirt to bake on at a faster rate. Similarly, do not clean Longboard in freezing temperatures as this may cause the aluminum to react.

When cleaning other surfaces of the building be cautious of the cleaner dripping onto your Longboard product. For example, if you are cleaning your windows with a highly acidic substance you would not want this to drip onto Longboard and cause an adverse reaction to the finish.

Do not use repetitive and abrasive pressure when scrubbing stains. Scrubbing aggressively in the same spot may wear down the finish at an accelerated rate.

Do not use any alcohol cleaners as this can weaken the coatings at an accelerated rate

RECOMMENDED CLEANING SCHEDULES

- Non-Aggressive Environments- Clean and inspect once a year
- Tropical Environments- Clean and inspect every 6 months
- Chlorinated Swimming Pools- Clean and inspect every 3 months
- Coastal Environments- Clean and inspect every 3 months
- Industrial Environments- Clean and inspect every 3 months
- Aggressive/ Hazardous Environments (Active Job Sites)- Clean and inspect every month



WARNING

Under no circumstances should you use strong solvents such as thinners or solutions containing chlorinated hydrocarbons, esters or ketones. Similarly, never use abrasive cleaners or cutting compounds.

