



# ELITE ALUMINUM CORPORATION

INSULATED PANEL PRODUCTS • ARCHITECTURAL GLASS ENCLOSURES

## Recommendations for Cleaning Elite Roof Panels

### Introduction

The coil process for metal is designed to give a long lasting finish that needs periodic maintenance. During the production process the substrates are chemically cleaned and pretreated then immediately coated to ensure the freshest surface and best adhesion and corrosion protection. Special heat cured coatings are applied by direct rolling, followed by baking at high temperatures. The process results in a hard, durable finish that is resistant to deterioration by weather. These products have been designed and manufactured to last for many years and periodic maintenance is necessary and will keep them looking like new.

### Cleaning Pre-painted Surfaces

#### Dirt and Other Surface Contaminants

As with any outdoor article, occasional cleaning may be necessary and desirable. A simple solution of detergent in warm water is the best way to maintain the like-new appearance. Detergents like Tide with less than 0.5% phosphate can be mixed at one cup per five gallons of water. Clean the affected areas with a sponge, soft cloth, mop or soft bristle brush, rinsing immediately. Although the pre-paint will resist most mild cleaners and fresh water, take care not to scratch the painted surfaces. Make sure the roof is wet before you begin cleaning.

#### Chalking

All paints exposed to direct sunlight will slowly degrade over time, losing gloss and leaving a powdery chalk residue if not properly maintained. Rain and weather conditions will typically clean up the loose particles, but if build up persists, chalk can be removed using the same methods and materials described above. Be sure to rinse well and protect concrete and other surfaces.

#### Mold & Mildew

In warm and humid conditions, mold and mildew can grow on the pre-paint. If left for an extended period, the spores will penetrate the surface coating, causing staining and reducing the product's life. Mold and mildew should be cleaned thoroughly as soon as it is discovered. Mix one cup of mild soap (like Ivory) and one gallon of bleach into five gallons of water. Wash the surface with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle brush, for stubborn stains. Rinse thoroughly with fresh water. Any bleach left on the facing will attack the surface coating and the sealants used to seal the roof. Take care to protect your eyes, skin and surrounding areas, including carpets, plants and clothes.

#### Grease, Oil, Wax, Etc.

Cleaning with detergent and water as described above should be tried first. Small areas can be cleaned with commercial kitchen cleaners, while larger areas may require a commercial grease remover diluted with some fresh water. For persistent stains, a less desirable alternative is to wipe with a solvent like a light Naphtha blend. Be sure to use plenty of clean cloths to avoid just moving the oily stain around and observe all personal safety and fire warnings of the product. Note: solvent wiping can affect the long term durability of the pre-painted metal by softening or removing the film.

#### Things to Avoid

Cleaning with Acid based cleaners, like CLR, or high phosphate detergents, wire brushes, abrasive cleansers, sandpaper etc., should be avoided as these items will damage the pre-painted surface.