

COLUMBIA ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

INSTALLATION BULLETIN

Regarding potential discoloration of aluminum anodized products caused by corrosive ingredients in mortar and grout creating haze or stained look on finish

Dear Valued Customer.

While this is a rare occurrence, it is important to understand the corrosive nature of some of the ingredients contained in many mortars and grouts and how they may affect all anodized finishes. Cement is a widely used ingredient in products used in construction including mortars and grouts. A corrosive alkali, calcium hydroxide is liberated as water is added to the lime present in the cement mixture. Skin contact for prolonged periods can produce deep chemical burns. This same caustic chemical reaction can damage the surface of tile trims.

When using tile trim, floor trims or working near anodized aluminum thresholds the end users or installers must be aware of proper care and maintenance. Anodized finishes have been used for decades to protect aluminum and the technology for anodizing has improved over time creating tougher, longer lasting finishes. Although this is the case, the caustic ingredients contained in cementitious products such as mortar and grout, can cause discoloration on anodized surfaces. It is important that any residue of mortar and/or grout be immediately removed to prevent damage to the finish.

In addition to immediately removing mortar or grout residue do not use cleaning agents with hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acid. Aggressive or abrasive cleaners should not be used on anodized aluminum as they may scratch the surface. Use a gentle household cleaner or simply water

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the corrosive and caustic nature of certain ingredients in many mortars and grouts, it is imperative that any residue be immediately removed from the surface of the trim to prevent discoloration.

Anodized finishes are time tested and should provide years of maintenance free service. They clean easily with water or most common household cleaners other than the exceptions noted above.

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