

A-1 ALUMINUM INC.

Proper Care and Maintenance for Gutters

Proper Gutter Maintenance

1. Keeping gutters clean and flowing properly is of absolute paramount importance to proper house maintenance. You have to do it at least every season and more often if trees and shrubs surround your house.
2. Inspect your system for proper drainage often, at least every season, especially before the freezing weather arrives. Freezing and thawing of standing water in the gutter will result in loosening, possibly damaging and voiding the warranty on your gutter system.
3. The best time to look and see how your gutter system is working is during a rainstorm. Look for a steady flow of water out of the downspouts. If nothing is draining, you've got blockage.
4. Clean all gutters and downspouts four times per year.
5. Rainwater should be channeled away from the foundation.

Normal Weathering

Exposure to sunlight and extremes of the weather and atmosphere will cause any colored or painted surfaces gradually to fade, chalk, or suffer an accumulation of surface dirt or stains. The severity of any of these conditions depends upon the geographical location of your home, the cleanliness of the air in your neighborhood and many other local influences over which A-1 Aluminum Inc. has no control.

The finish is formulated to chalk in a controlled manner by releasing over time powdery microscopic particles of pigment. This is a self-cleaning feature, as surface dirt often is loosened along with the powder and is washed off by rainfall. Powder on places not reached by rainfall can be washed off with a garden hose. A sufficient thickness of finish is applied to allow for normal chalking without detracting from the long life of the finish.

Simple Cleaning

In areas where an abnormal amount of dirt is deposited on the wall surfaces, under eaves, and under other protective enclosures, the following simple cleaning procedure should be scheduled annually or more often if conditions demand.

For surface soil or stains resulting from industrial fallout, tree sap, insecticides, or chimney fumes, the use of ordinary nonabrasive household detergents is recommended. (For example 1/3 cup of Tide® per gallon of water.)

The solution should be applied to the soiled surface by means of a soft rag, sponge, or soft bristle brush with a gentle rubbing action – do not rub vigorously so as to create glossy areas over the satin finish of your siding, trim or gutters. Rotary soft bristle brushes equipped with long extension handles may be used to reach some of the higher areas.

As with any cleaning operation, less streaking will result if the house is washed from bottom to top. It is important that immediately following all washing operations, the entire surface be thoroughly rinsed with fresh water from a garden hose.

Stubborn Stains

Courtesy of A-1 Aluminum Inc.

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CAUTION: Do not use abrasive or solvent type cleaners or paint remover for cleaning. These materials may soften or actually remove the paint finish. Avoid skin contact or getting cleaner in eyes. Avoid contact with shrubbery. Always test any cleaner on an inconspicuous area before full use.

In some locales, mildew may be a problem. It appears as black spots occurring on the surface dirt and is usually first detected in areas not subjected to rainfall, such as under eaves and porch enclosures. For removal, prepare a solution as follows and comply with the aforementioned washing and rinsing procedures:

1/3	cup detergent (Tide® for example)
2/3	cup trisodium phosphate (Soilax® for example)
1	quart 5% sodium hypochlorite (Clorox® for example)
3	quarts water

CAUTION: Greater concentrations may cause damage to the paint finish.

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