

A faded, semi-transparent image of a man and a woman standing by a large window, looking out at a bright, sunny day. The man is on the right, with his arm around the woman's shoulder. The woman is on the left, looking out the window.

# Capral Aluminium Care and Maintenance



# Caring for your Capral Aluminium products

Caring for your new Capral Aluminium product correctly should greatly enhance its life, appearance and functionality. Below are some tips that should help to extend the life of your aluminium product.

Cleaning should start at the time your products are installed, ensuring that construction materials such as concrete, plaster and paint splashes are removed before they have a chance to dry. Failure to remove these materials at this early stage will require the use of aggressive cleaning materials and techniques with the potential to damage product finishes.

## Aluminium Windows and Doors

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All external aluminium surfaces of windows and doors should be washed with clean water and a mild detergent. In most environments, maintenance is recommended (every three months and every month in marine and industrial environments).

A soft sponge or similar should be used to avoid scratching the glass or aluminium. Abrasive, chemical cleaners or steel wool should not be used as such methods may result in damage to the glass or aluminium surfaces. Drainage slots should be checked on a regular basis to ensure they have not become blocked with residual dirt, grime or insects.

### Awning/Casement Windows and French Doors

With sashes open, the sash and perimeter frames should be cleaned regularly and kept clear of dust and foreign matter. All window operating hardware should be cleaned and operated regularly to ensure smooth operation. Lubricants should not be used on casement stays, as this will affect their operation.

### Double Hung Windows

Window jamb tracks should be cleaned regularly and kept clear of dust and foreign matter. Window operating hardware should be cleaned and operated regularly. It is imperative that both top and bottom sashes are operated fully on a regular basis to ensure smooth operation.

### Sliding Windows and Sliding Doors

Sill recesses should be regularly cleaned and kept clear of dust and foreign matter. A brush and vacuum within the track area may be used to do this. Door locks should be checked from time to time for operation and may require adjustment to compensate for building settlement.

Door rollers are factory set and should not require any adjustment. However, if due to building settlement, an

adjustment needs to be made, the door panel must first be lifted to relieve weight from the roller assembly. Adjustment should be made using a Phillips head screwdriver.

Contact your window supplier for further instructions.

### Hardware

Regular maintenance is required for all hardware, even stainless steel components.

Allow the hardware to fully dry before applying a protective silicone based spray such as CRC, Marine 66 or Inox. Note, take care to prevent these sprays coming into contact with the aluminium surfaces as this may cause staining. For hinges a thin film of light machine oil could also be used. After applying lightly, wipe to remove excess. This will help maintain the original lustre of the metal hardware.

All powdercoated hardware should be wiped clean with a mixture of warm water and mild detergent using a soft rag, before being thoroughly rinsed with water.

### Glass (windows and doors)

It is recommended that all glass surfaces be kept clean by prompt removal of all dirt or other contaminants. Clean water and, in some instances, a small amount of mild detergent should be used. After washing, any detergent residue must be thoroughly rinsed away with clean water.

Under no circumstances is any form of blade, scraper or abrasive cleaner to be used. Stubborn dirt or residue should be lightly sponged off to avoid scratching of the glass.

The frequency of cleaning required will depend on environmental conditions such as proximity to the ocean or industrial areas.

## Insect, Safety and Security Screens

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- Flyscreens can be cleaned by vacuuming or washing thoroughly using a soft brush.
- Clean screens 3 to 4 times per year.
- Add a small amount of mild detergent to a bucket of warm water.
- Carefully remove the screen.
- Hose the screen down thoroughly.
- Dip a soft nylon brush into the bucket of water and gently brush the screen.
- Hose down well.
- Allow the screen to dry before replacing.

## Shower Screens

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The components used in Capral's shower enclosures have been designed with non-corrosive materials and will require no special maintenance other than regular careful cleaning.

Frequency of cleaning is largely dependent on the overall use of the shower enclosure and ventilation. It is recommended that cleaning be done on a regular basis.

Shower screens should be wiped down after every use with a non-abrasive sponge or soft cloth. Squeegee glass and dry aluminium frames and hardware to minimise water spots and mineral deposits. This is particularly important in locations where the water has a high mineral content.

Maintaining a dry ventilated bathroom is also recommended at all times.

It is important to make sure that the sill drainage holes do not become blocked. The pocket filler in the frame sill can easily be removed, exposing the drain holes. Clean the frame pocket and flush out foreign matter that can block the holes. Re-insert the pocket filler.

### Aluminium

All aluminium surfaces should be kept clean by prompt removal of all dust, soap, grime and any other foreign matter using clean water and a small amount of mild detergent as required. Never use any type of abrasive-type cleaning agent

(Ajax or similar), ammonia, bleach, acids, waxes, alcohol or solvents, or any abrasive cleaning material such as steel wool, bristle brushes or similar, as these will cause damage to the anodised surface. Thoroughly wash off any residue with clean water, ensuring no residue remains.

### Powder coated aluminium

Cleaning (as detailed for anodised aluminium) is desirable if the fine finish of the powder coated aluminium is to be preserved. Use a soft sponge so as not to scratch the paint surfaces. Deterioration of the coating occurs mainly as a result of soap deposition. Small scratches, if they occur, may be buffed out using a good quality car polish, however care must be taken not to over-do.

### Glass

Safety-wired glass, safety organic-coated glass and laminated glass products are liable to damage from thermal shock. Care should be taken to avoid direct spraying of hot water from the shower, spraying onto the glass.

Soap and other residue should be cleaned from glass regularly. Clean water should be used and in some circumstances the addition of a small amount of mild detergent would be of some benefit. Use a soft sponge so as not to scratch the glass.



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