



## Technical Bulletin

No	303
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Date	3/09/89

### FIELD PAINTING PREPAINTED ALUMINUM

Periodically the need arises to paint Fabral's prepainted aluminum sheets. This can be accomplished by following the procedure listed below.

#### A. Preparing the Painted Surface

In many cases, simply washing the building with plain water using hoses or pressure sprays will be adequate. In areas where heavy dirt deposits dull the surface, a solution of water and detergent (1/3 cup Tide per gallon of water for example) may be used. A soft bristle brush with a long handle, similar to those sold for use on autos or trucks, may be useful. A clear water rinse should follow.

Mildew may occur in areas subject to high humidity, but is not normally a problem due to the inherent mildew resistance of the baked finishes used. However, mildew can grow on dirt and spore deposits in some cases. To remove mildew along with the dirt, the following solution is recommended:

- 1/3 Cup Detergent (Tide for example)
- 2/3 Cup Tri-Sodium Phosphate (Soilex for example)
- 1 Qt. Sodium Hypochlorite 5% Solution (Chlorox for example)
- 3 Qt. Water

Care should be taken to rinse the area thoroughly after cleaning with this solution.

Solvents and abrasive cleaners should be avoided. Chalking compounds, oils, grease, tars, wax and similar substances can be removed with spirits applied only to the areas which are contaminated. Follow up the use of solvent with detergent cleaning and rinsing.

#### B. Refinishing the Painted Surface

Check for recoat ability of the unweathered paint surface by rubbing with a cloth saturated with xylol, or equivalent. If the film is partially removed as evidenced by paint on the cloth, primer is not required. If the surface is not softened by xylol, primer must be used. Weathered surfaces will soften and no primer is required.

If a primer is required, apply a uniform thin film of a good aluminum based primer per label instructions. Permit this primer coat to dry. Apply a finish coat of any good exterior type paint by a brush, roller or sprayer. Be sure that the finish coat is compatible with the primer used. Your paint supplier should be able to verify this for you. Care should be taken in selecting paints to avoid those containing mercury, copper or lead pigments which are harmful to aluminum.

For best results, do not; paint wet surfaces, pain surfaces when air temperature is below 55 F or paint surfaces when air temperatures are extremely high.