

# CARE & MAINTENANCE

## Architectural Wall Solid Surfaces

February 2015

Following are suggested methods for safe and effective cleaning and maintenance of KI's architectural wall products, including solid panels and extrusions.

**NOTE: It is highly recommended to clean your architectural walls at least once per year.** In coastal areas where the finish is exposed to salt spray or in areas containing heavy industrial pollutants, architectural walls should be cleaned as part of a regular, ongoing maintenance program.

For best care, avoid extreme temperatures and humidity. Maintain temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity levels between 30 and 50 percent.

### SOLID PANELS

#### Vertical Surface Fabric

Remove as much soil or staining material as possible by carefully vacuuming, brushing or scraping with a dull instrument. Clean with shampoo, foam or dry cleaning solvents **without saturating with liquid**. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance.

##### *Water-Borne Soil*

Follow these directions for removing water-borne, non-greasy soil or stains (such as coffee, milk, soft drinks, fruit juices, washable ink, etc.):

1. Gently apply a water-based cleaner (specifically made for cleaning fabric) to the soiled area using a clean cloth or sponge. Suitable cleaners include Bissell® Upholstery Shampoo, Woolite® Upholstery Shampoo, or Guardsman Fabri-Kleen®.
2. Work the cleaner into a lather or foam, if possible, to minimize soaking the fabric. With light brushing motions, apply from outside the soiled area toward the center to prevent rings.
3. Allow fabric to dry completely, and then vacuum thoroughly.

##### *Oil-Borne Soil*

Follow these directions for removing oil-borne soil or stains (such as salad dressing, grease, lipstick, ball-point ink, etc.):

1. Gently apply a dry-cleaning fluid to the soiled area using a dampened cloth or soft-bristle brush.
2. With quick, light brush strokes, apply from outside the soiled area toward the center to prevent rings. Avoid soaking the fabric.
3. Gently blot with a clean, absorbent cloth to soak up and remove dampened soil.
4. Allow fabric to dry completely, and then vacuum thoroughly.

##### *Large Areas*

When large fabric areas must be cleaned, such as complete panels, it is recommended that you employ a professional cleaning firm that uses a dry-foam upholstery shampoo and an immediate wet pick-up vacuum system. **Do not steam clean** or use other methods that soak or heat the fabric.

#### Vertical Surface Vinyl

Remove as much soil or staining material as possible by carefully vacuuming, brushing or scraping with a dull instrument. Use lukewarm water and mild soap to remove most soil and stains. Work up a thin lather on a clean, damp piece of cheesecloth and rub it gently over the soiled area. Wipe off soap with a fresh piece of cheesecloth. Finally, wipe with a soft, dry cloth.

Never use furniture polishes, oils, solvents, varnishes, abrasive cleaners, or ammonia water to clean vinyl or leather. Naphtha or mineral spirits may be used with caution (as they are flammable) to remove chewing gum, grease, or other greasy soils and stains that cannot be removed with soap and water.



Furnishing Knowledge®

## Laminate and Metal

Wipe with a damp cloth to remove general soiling and water-borne stains. A hard-surface all-purpose cleaner (such as Formula 409, Fantastic, Top Job, Mr. Clean, etc.) may also be used. Oil-borne stains may require an application of dry-cleaning fluid. Fill scratches in laminate surfaces with a coordinating oak, walnut, or mahogany putty stick (available at paint supply/hardware stores).

## Wood

Use a cleaner or flax soap formulated especially for wood furniture. Dilute according to the manufacturer's directions. Dampen (do not saturate) a soft cloth with the diluted cleaner and wipe surface in direction of the wood grain to remove dirt and fingerprints. Wipe clean with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use cleaners containing oils or ammonia on wood surfaces.

## EXTRUSIONS

### Powdercoat Paint

Clean using mild soap solutions, such as products that are safe for use with bare hands (avoid use of strong acid or alkali cleaners, as they may damage the finish). Solvents no stronger than mineral spirits or denatured alcohol may be used to remove grease, sealants or other materials. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water and dry with a soft cloth.

Do not use abrasive cleaners or materials, such as steel wool or abrasive brushes, which may harm the surface. Never mix cleaners or cleaners and solvents as the resultant mixture can cause harmful or even dangerous results.

*NOTE:* KI's own architectural wall factory applies heat-cured painted finishes that are highly durable and very colorfast. To assure that they retain their original beauty, these highly durable finishes should be cleaned occasionally.

### Anodized Aluminum

Clean using mild soap solutions, such as products that are safe for use with bare hands (avoid the use of strong acid or alkali cleaners). Apply solution with a soft cloth, sponge or brush. Severely soiled anodized surfaces may be cleaned more aggressively than painted surfaces, such as with a mildly abrasive scrubbing pad. Use the pad to remove the mark, then clean the surface using the mild soap solution. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water and dry with a soft cloth.

*NOTE:* Anodized material has an extremely hard surface that is very colorfast and mar resistant. KI's anodized finish is applied by a commercial anodizer that specializes in architectural finishing. It provides consistent color and long product life in a variety of applications.

### Veneer Wrap

**Do not use furniture polish.** Instead, clean using mild soap solutions, such as products safe for use with bare hands (avoid the use of strong acid or alkali cleaners), to retain the original beauty of wood. Apply the solution with a soft cloth, sponge or brush. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry with a soft cloth. Always wipe the surface in the direction of the wood grain.

## FIELD REPAIRS OF MINOR DAMAGE

Some damage will inevitably occur and touchup work will be required during or after installation. The good news is that minor scratches and rub marks on both painted and anodized surfaces can be easily repaired. Large dents or scratches will likely require replacement. A sample of the piece must be sent to KI to get the best match.

**Powdercoat Paint**—Minor surface damage can be sanded with excellent results. For major scratches or gouges, use a relatively course grit paper to remove the damage, and then use progressively finer paper to remove the sanding marks, finishing with a 180 to 220 grit paper.

Touchup paint is supplied with each installation. It comes in small aerosol cans or bottles with a built-in brush for easy application. It should be applied very sparingly, as it is intended to cover small blemishes or exposed ends on fabricated parts. It is not intended for use on large areas of more than a few square inches. The color will closely match the factory-applied painted finish; however, the finish is not as hard nor will it have the same performance as the baked-on finish.

To apply, clean the area to be touched up and wipe with denatured alcohol to remove any moisture or cleaning residue and apply per the instructions provided with the touchup kit.

**Anodized Aluminum**—Anodized material should not be sanded. Anodized surfaces are aluminum oxide, which is generally harder than the sandpaper. Most rub marks can simply be removed with a mild abrasive pad, such as Scotch-Brite®.

**Veneer Wrap**—Veneered extrusions with minor scratches can be mitigated with the supplied stain kit. For best results, engage a trained professional to complete this work.