The following care & maintenance procedure will ensure your Urban Group new gate, deck or fence will look good for many years to come.

The frequency of cleaning will depend on your sites local environmental conditions. If it is dry or very wet this suggests more regular cleaning. Your location will have varying environmental influences so you should factor in differences between urban, rural, industrial and coastal influences.

# CARE & MAINTENANCE - Aluminium

For powder coated aluminium gate & fence products including posts

To extend the life of your powder coated aluminium posts, gates & fences, a simple, regular maintenance program needs to be implemented.

The effects of ultra violet light, atmospheric pollution, dirt, grime and airborne salt/other deposits can all accumulate over time and should be removed at regular intervals.

As a general rule cleaning should take place every six months. *In areas where pollutants are more prevalent, such as beachfront houses and industrial or geothermal areas, then a cleaning program should be carried out on a more frequent basis i.e. every one to three months.*

## Do’s and Dont’s of protecting your powder coating

## Care of Dulux Powders [Click here to download a copy](https://duluxpowders.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Dulux-Powders-Care-and-Maintenance-Tech-Advice-Brochure-0218.pdf)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do’s | Dont’s |
| * **Protect all powder coated aluminium** – when building or renovating use approved tapes to protect your aluminium | * Use aggressive solvents – turpentine, white spirits, thinners, citrus based cleaners or other aggressive solvents |
| * **Remove all unwanted paint and sealants** – remove paint or sealant splatters before they dry | * **Rub Powder Coated Surfaces Excessively** – especially if your product has a metallic finish |
| * **Use Recommended solvents for stubborn stains** – Only use Isopropyl Alcohol or Methylated Spirits and wash off with fresh water | * **Allow sunscreen to come in contact with powder coated surfaces** – it has been acknowledged that some sunscreens adversely affect powder coated surfaces |
| * **Inspect your Aluminium regularly** – regular inspection will allow you to maintain before repair or replacement is a necessity | * **Neglect recommended care and maintenance** – Not following maintenance recommendations will void any warranties |
| * **Clean in Mild Conditions** – Clean powder coted products when the surafec temperatures are below 25°C |  |

## Four steps to cleaning your powder coated aluminium gates & fences:

1. Carefully remove any loose surface deposits with a wet sponge
2. Use a soft brush (non-abrasive) and a mild pH neutral household detergent (do not use solvents) in warm water, remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. For stubborn stains use only Isopropyl Alcohol or methylated spirits and rinse off thoroughly with clean water and repeat Step 2.
4. Rinse off with clean fresh water.

**Restoring weathered or scratched surfaces**

If through some misadventure your powder coated aluminium posts, gate or fence is scratched or damaged, don’t panic. Powder coating repair kits are available in all colours. Spray cans make easy aesthetic repairs to scuffed or scratched powder coated surfaces while dab sticks are ideally suited for small scratches.

## Damaged Posts, Gates or Fences

If the worst happened and your aluminium product are severely damaged contact our team to discuss replacements that match your site or new products for a whole new look.

# CARE & MAINTENANCE - Stabiwood

For Stabiwood Decking and Fencing products

To extend the life of your Stabiwood Prooducts, a simple, regular maintenance program needs to be implemented.

The effects of moisture, organic matter, atmospheric pollution, dirt, grime and airborne salt/other deposits can all accumulate over time and should be removed at regular intervals. Stabiwood has mould inhibitors built into it to protect the product but if organic matter sits on any surfaces and there is the right mix of temperature and moisture mould can grow – but it is simple to keep your Stabiwood in top notch condition.

As a general rule cleaning should take place every six months. *In areas where pollutants are more prevalent, such as beachfront houses and industrial or geothermal areas and/or shaded areas, then a cleaning program should be carried out on a more frequent basis i.e. every one to three months.*

## Early Maintenance of Stabiwood

As a wood plastic composite product your StabiFence and/or StabiDeck will acclimatise to your climate and ambient temperature range – as it expands and contract each day. The Stabiwood systems have been designed to allow normal expansion and contraction and still look great.

In the first few weather cycles you may notice some fine surface dust work its way out of the Stabiwood when wet and leave “watermarks” or “drip marks”. This is a short term settling in of the material as loose surface timber particles work their way loose – just follow the maintenance steps below until your fence or deck has acclimatised.

## Six steps to cleaning your Stabiwood Fence or Deck:

1. Carefully remove any loose surface deposits with a wet sponge or soft brush
2. Use a soft brush (non-abrasive) and a mild pH neutral household detergent (do not use solvents) in warm water
3. For stubborn stains De-Solv-it or [30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner](https://30seconds.co.nz/product/outdoor-cleaner/) have given good results and are available at all good stores in NZ. Rinse off thoroughly with clean water and repeat Step 2.
4. For Decks a soft power wash with a deck head on a water blaster has also been proven to work well. Take care to not have the pressure too high.
5. Rinse off with clean fresh water.
6. Watch this Youtube Video [[Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y13vmtBCyIc)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KB8AMPWL2s)

**Restoring weathered or scratched surfaces**

If your fence or deck is scratched – do not worry about the colour as the colour is right through the Stabiwood product – it will not fade or rust.

For deep scratch you can restore the surface by scuffing with a steel wool pad or a soft wire brush.

* Take care not to rub too aggressively to gouge a deep hollow in your product
* Make sure you scuff long the “grain” if you rub across the grain you will affect the look and feel of that board

## Damaged Posts, Gates, Boards, Slats or Decking

## If the worst happened and your Stabiwood products are severely damaged contact our team to discuss replacements that match your site or new products for a whole new look.

## WE’RE HERE TO HELP

Should you have any questions, we are only a phone call away!

Please contact us on 0800 80 3326.

Thank-you for choosing Urban Group.