



CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES FOR YOUR CENTURY RAILINGS

Maintaining the good looks of your powder coated products is just like caring for your car – and is a smart way to protect your investment. Over time with exposure to the elements, powder coatings may show signs of weathering such as loss of gloss, chalking and slight colour change. A simple regular clean will minimize the effects of weathering and will remove dirt, grime and other build-up detrimental to all powder coatings. Clean the aluminum components of the rail with warm soapy water using a sponge or soft cloth. Do not use any types of abrasive cleaners that may scratch the railing. For stubborn stains consult your **Century** representative.

Cleaning should start at the time the 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 potential damage to the powder coated surface.

If the product is installed within one (1) mile of a coastline, saltwater bay, or any area prone to saltwater spray, there are additional and specific maintenance requirements within these installation, care, and maintenance instructions that apply. **Century Aluminum Railing Systems** will require cleaning and caring for the exterior aluminum surfaces. Annual inspections are sufficient for most areas; however coastal areas have special requirements.

Product Cleaning:

For light cleaning, rinse with water from bottom to top and back to bottom. This will clean the surface on the way up and prevent the collection of dirty “run down” and possible streaking. Air dry or wipe dry with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth.

If light cleaning does not clean the debris, rinse the surface with clean water from top to bottom. Use a sponge and clean with mild soap and water. Immediately rinse any “run down” to lower parts of the building. Do not allow cleaning solutions to collect or “puddle” on surfaces. Immediately rinse with clean water. It is very important that cleaning solution does not dry on the surface. Air or wipe dry with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn, water-soluble debris, repeat steps above until clean.

Do not clean coated aluminum surfaces in direct sunlight or in temperatures too hot or too cold. Do not use abrasive cleaners that may scratch the cladding and avoid excessive rubbing or over-cleaning. Apply wax to all exposed fasteners every 3-6 months to help prevent oxidation. This should be performed more frequently if product is located in high salt content areas.

Cleaning of Brick and Concrete:

The cleaning solutions used on both brick and concrete contain strong chemicals that can cause damage to the powder-coated surface. All exposed powder-coated surfaces should be fully protected.

If any such solutions or chemicals come in contact with the powder-coated surface, wash immediately with copious amounts of water.

Prolonged exposure can cause discoloration of the film, loss of gloss and damage to the coating surface.



Recommended Maintenance Schedule:

Aluminum handrails and guardrails are intended to provide both safety and aesthetics for the life of the structure to which they are installed. **Century Aluminum Railing Systems** recommends that the following actions be undertaken:

1. Railing should be hand washed with mild detergent and rinsed with clean water as needed every 6-12 months.
2. All screws should be checked every year for snugness. Caulking should be removed and replaced if showing signs of deterioration. If screws require replacing, replace them with appropriate fasteners.
3. Guardrails fastened to concrete decks should be inspected carefully on an annual basis at each plate for evidence of moisture leakage or loose connections.

The frequency of such cleaning will depend on many factors including:

- The geographical location of the building
- The environment surrounding the building, i.e., marine, swimming pool, industrial, or a combination of these environments
- Levels of atmospheric pollution
- Prevailing winds
- Protection of the building by other buildings
- Possibility of airborne debris (e.g., sand/dust etc.) causing erosive wear of the coating
- If the environmental circumstances change during the lifetime of the building
- The powder coating chemistry

The frequency of cleaning depends in part on the standard of appearance that is required and also the requirements to remove deposits, which could, during prolonged contact with either the powder film or the metal substrate, (if exposed) cause damage.

Sheltered areas can be more at risk of coating degradation than exposed areas. This is because wind-blown salt and other pollutants may adhere to the surface and will not be cleaned away with rainfall. These areas should be inspected and cleaned if necessary on a more regular basis.

Vinyl Baseplate Covers can be cleaned or brought back to life with aftermarket products such as RECOLOUR or similar revitalizing vinyl products. *(It is recommended to remove and store your baseplate cover indoors out of the elements over the winter months).* Vinyl Baseplate Covers may be glued together with a silicone, or vinyl adhesive to avoid separation at the connection points if so desired.

Coastline Maintenance Requirements:

The salt and moisture in the air of such regions can create a damaging buildup of salt on the railing components. This damaging build-up requires monthly inspections of all railing components to detect and subsequently remove the harmful residue. If upon detection of any salty build-up, monthly cleaning of the aluminum surface may be required to regain the product's original look, quality and luster and to maintain its warranty eligibility.

*(NOTE: Any evidence of these anomalies should be reported to your **Century** dealer or technical representative for further action. It is the sole responsibility of the owner to maintain the railings in accordance with these care and maintenance instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may void the warranty.)*



Century Tempered Glass: When is a defect not a defect?

When dealing with quality issues on glass, it is important to understand that many visible imperfections are considered a normal part of the manufacturing process and the finished product. Glass is intended to be looked “through” and not “at”, and in many cases the imperfections are considered an allowable defect.

Century Aluminum Railings follows the industry standards for glass set by the ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials), specifically ASTM C1036 for Flat Glass and C1048 for Heat Strengthened and Fully Tempered Flat Glass. The standards identify the physical requirements required for Tempered Glass and outline the allowable defects and inspection criteria used to identify warranty eligible defects. The following is brief description of the inspection process:

1. Move away from the glass.
2. Stand back 10 feet.
3. Face the glass straight-on at 90 degrees.
4. View in daylight but not direct sunlight.
5. Inspect the normal viewing area of the glass. (“Normal viewing area” is defined as an ellipse or circle having axes equal to 80% of the height and width dimensions of the glass panel.)

If the scratch/bubble/blemish is not seen under the above conditions, then it is not considered a defect and does not require replacement.

In addition, the ASTM Standard identifies the following as allowable defects even when visible during the inspection process:

- **Linear Blemishes** – scratches, scrapes and other similar imperfections. Scratches visible at 3 meters (10 feet), which are up to 75 mm (3 inches) in length shall be acceptable if within 75 mm (3 inches) of the edges of a lite or are not within the normal viewing area.
- **Point Blemishes** – gaseous inclusions, knots, dirt and other similar imperfections visible at 3 meters (10 feet), which are less than 1.6 mm (1/16 inches) in diameter, shall be acceptable.

Strain patterns in Tempered glass that are not normally visible that may become visible under certain light conditions are a normal result of the heat-treating process and not considered a defect and are not eligible for replacement.

For additional information on Century Aluminum Railings please contact us:

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