

# Contemporary Canopy Maintenance

NOTE: Care should be taken during cleaning to ensure the polycarbonate sheet is not damaged, only under special circumstances should the sheet be removed, the sheet should be removed by competent personnel.

In order to maintain the high standard of finish provided by IG GRP, some basic maintenance is recommended to ensure longevity of the powder coated finish. Due to the intended product environment, the powder coated finish will be exposed to a wide variety of conditions and as a result the finish may deteriorate slightly with effects such as loss of gloss, chalking and a slight colour change. However, a simple regular clean will minimise the effects of weathering and remove dirt, grime and other build-up which is detrimental to all powder coatings.

How often you clean them depends on a few factors, such as

- The geographical location of your building.
- The environment surrounding the products e.g. marine, industrial, alkaline or acidic, etc.
- The levels of atmospheric pollution including salts.
- Prevailing winds and the possibility of air borne debris causing erosive wear of the coating, for example sand causing abrasion.
- Long term, a change in the environmental circumstances during the lifetime of the building e.g. if rural became industrial, can also affect the atmosphere and thus the wear on the coating.

The environment the product is in is a key factor in determining the frequency of cleaning required. In many environments high corrosively levels, such as industrial or marine, normal cleaning frequency should be at a minimum of six monthly intervals

## **Cleaning of powder coated surfaces**

The best method of cleaning is simple: regular washing of the coating using a solution of warm water and non-abrasive, pH neutral detergent solution. IG GRP recommends using a small test area first to ensure suitability of detergent. Make sure you thoroughly rinse the surfaces after cleaning to remove all residues. You can use a soft cloth, sponge or a soft natural bristle brush.

## **Cleaning of polycarbonate sheet**

Take care to avoid excessively hot solutions as this could have an adverse effect on the polycarbonate sheet. Cleaning should be carried out using lukewarm water mixed with a solution of mild soap or household detergent. A soft cloth or sponge should be used to loosen any stubborn dirt before a final rinse with cold water. Dry with a soft cloth to avoid the formation of water spots.