FABRAL
METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS

Technical Bulletin

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CLEANING PRE-PAINTED ROOFING & SIDING

Most pre-painted metal roofing and siding can be cleaned with a <u>mild</u> detergent solution such as tri-sodium phosphate, Spic-N-Span laundry detergent or even most liquid dishwashing cleaners. The strength of the solution required will depend on the amount of dirt accumulated on the panels. To prevent streaking, clean panels from the bottom up and rinse thoroughly with clean water.

For pre-painted panels that have heavy accumulations of dirt stains or mildew that cannot be readily removed with mild detergents, a stronger cleaning agent is required. It should be one that is strong enough to lift the heavy dirt and stains, but not harm the paint finish. A recommended product is "Glass Wax" that is available at most supermarkets. The suggested procedure is:

1. Shake the "Glass-Wax" to thoroughly mix the product. If not mixed thoroughly, some cleaning effectiveness is lost.

2. Saturate a sponge, nylon pad or heavy cloth with the "GlassWax" and starting at the bottom of the panel, clean a section of panel by <u>light</u> rubbing in a back and forth motion parallel to the panel ribs.

3. For extra stubborn areas, rub for a longer period of time. <u>Do not</u> increase the rubbing pressure.

4. After each section is completed, rinse the cleaned area with fresh, clean water.

5. When an area of wall has been cleaned from the bottom to the top of the wall, wipe down the entire area with a clean wet sponge to remove any excess cleaner. Keep the sponge well rinsed out with clean water.

6. Any of the cleaner not rinsed off will dry to a light haze. To remove this haze, buff the area with a dry, soft cloth.

For heavy mildew or other fungal growth that cannot be removed by the above procedures, try mixing one gallon of bleach in 5 gallons of water along with one cup of mild soap, like Ivory Liquid, to aid wetting. Do not let the solution dry on the panel being cleaned. Rinse the panels completely with fresh water when completed.