

Thank you for purchasing a Fortis Aluminium entrance door – proudly manufactured here in the UK to the highest standards. With careful use & maintenance – your door will look good and perform well for many years to come.

The following guidelines are for general purpose and the timescales between inspections should always reflect the usage & location. Doors installed in coastal locations are particularly susceptible to salt corrosion and maintenance inspections, cleaning and lubrication should be increased accordingly.

## Maintenance:

- ✚ All factory surfaces on aluminium products are designed as long term weather resistant.
- ✚ All hinges and locking mechanism are designed to be low maintenance and with minimal wear.
- ✚ To preserve the value of your investment, check the surfaces, hinges and locking mechanisms on a regular basis to ensure they are correctly functioning and your door is opening & closing with the correct tolerances. Over time & with use, settlement of the door can arise and part of your regular maintenance may include adjustment of the hinges to ensure the door sits squarely in the frame. Doors out of alignment can place undue stress on the lock & cylinder and cause gaskets to rub and come away from the door & frame – these items are outside of any warranty cover. Details on how to adjust the hinges can be found on our website & also another document which comes with your door.
- ✚ Lubricate the hinges and locking mechanism with a suitable lubricant twice yearly. (Ideally at the beginning of Spring & Autumn.)
- ✚ If you are wanting to use a masking tape for any maintenance protection. We only recommend tapes such as TESA or equivalent and these should be removed from the surface after a period of 2 weeks to avoid any residue staining.

## Cleaning:

- ✚ Any objects or dirt on the threshold, hinges or locking mechanism should be removed as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary damage to the door. If new build – do not let the dirt build up on the door – keep it regularly cleaned throughout the build.
- ✚ Surfaces should be cleaned with neutral cleaning agents, warm soapy water, then let it soak before wiping it down with a warm, damp cloth. Do not use abrasive or aggressive cleaning agents as it can cause damage to the finish.
- ✚ Any damage or scratches to the finish should be professionally repaired as soon as possible by a suitable professional such as Plastic Surgeon Ltd or similar.
- ✚ Our stainless steel is designed to withstand the toughest environments for a prolonged period – High performance & corrosion resistant. It is a misconception that stainless steel is “stain less” and stainless steel will degrade like all other architectural materials if it’s not kept clean. Being 316 grade material it has a higher resistance to the effects of atmospheric exposure. All handles and fittings are 316 graded and designed for marine environments but will always be affected by the elements and will remain susceptible to finger prints, smudges & staining so regularly cleaning is advised – preferably every month. If rust forms on the surface, it is called “flight rust” and can form when there are substances in the atmosphere. Clean the stainless regularly with alkali, neutral or specifically designed stainless steel fluid. Tough stains should be rubbed off with a synthetic cloth. Do not use steel wool or hard metal objects to remove it as this may accelerate the formation of the flight rust. Regular maintenance is essential.

## Stainless Steel cleaning & care:

Stainless Steel hardware must be cleaned every month using warm, soapy water and general household stainless steel cleaning product. For any hard to remove residue on any stainless steel hardware please use a wadding cloth first than followed by a general household stainless steel cleaning product.

Stainless steel is easy to clean. Washing with soap or mild detergent and warm water followed by a clear water rinse is usually quite adequate for hardware. Where stainless steel has become extremely dirty with signs of surface discolouration (perhaps following periods of neglect from a building site or misuse) alternative methods of cleaning can be used, as outlined below.

Requirement	Suggested Method	Comments
Routine cleaning of light soiling	Soap, detergent or dilute (1%) ammonia solution in warm, clean water. Apply with a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft-fibre brush then rinse in clean water and dry	Satisfactory on most surfaces
Fingerprints	Detergent and warm water, alternatively, stainless steel cleaner	Proprietary spray-applied polishes available to clean and minimise remarking
Oil and grease marks	Soapy water first then clean down with stainless steel cleaner.	Alkaline formulations are also available with surfactant additions e.g.'D7' Polish
Stubborn spots and stains. Water marking. Light rust staining	Mild, non-scratching creams and polishes. Apply with soft cloth or soft sponge and rinse off residues with clean water and dry	Avoid cleaning pastes with abrasive additions. Suitable cream cleansers are available with soft calcium carbonate additions, e.g. 'Cif', or with the addition of citric acid, e.g. Shiny Sinks <sup>1</sup> . Do not use chloride solutions
Localised rust stains	Clean with stainless steel cleaner & synthetic cloth. If stubborn – an alkali or neutral cleaner can be used	Carbon steel wool should not be used.
Adherent hard water scales and mortar/cement splashes	10-15 volume % solution of phosphoric acid. Use warm water, neutralise with dilute ammonia solution, rinse and dry.	Proprietary formulations available with surfactant additions. Take special care when using hydrochloric acid based mortar removers
Badly neglected surfaces with accumulated grime deposits	Warm, soapy water – leave to soak in. A fine, abrasive paste as used for car body refinishing, e.g. 'T-cut' rinsed clean to remove all paste material and dried	May brighten dull finishes. To avoid a patchy appearance, the whole surface may need to be treated.

**CAUTION:** Should any of your stainless steel cleaning products come into contact with the door it is important that it is washed off immediately with soapy water.

Enjoy your new door & thank you for buying “British” & supporting the British manufacturing industry.



Fortis Aluminium Ltd is an accredited member of “Made in Britain” manufacturing community.

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