

Care & Maintenance

General

Mos provides this care and maintenance information as a general guide to ensure your Mos products are maintained in their best possible condition for the life of the product.

To ensure product longevity is maximised, it is important to establish a regular cleaning regime to remove any residual contaminants (such as pollution, dirt, grime, food deposits, bird droppings, and salt deposits) that may accumulate on your product over time. As a general rule, cleaning should be carried out every six months, increased to every 3 months in areas where contaminants are more prevalent (eg coastal or industrial areas).

Regular maintenance procedures should also be carried out in parallel to the cleaning regime outlined above. This includes checking all bolts are snug and all timber screws are holding in place. If a timber screw has come loose it may be best to replace the timber batten. All fasteners should be stainless steel if replaced - 304 as a minimum, or 316 if in a marine environment.

Timber - Leaching

All Australian hardwoods contain natural tannins which tend to leach from the timber when new furniture is installed in external environments. This is normal, and will occur as long as it takes for those tannins to clear from the hardwood. We typically use Spotted Gum which is known to have a lower tannin content than most Australian hardwoods, but it will still leach. Regardless, the tannins that tend to discolour ground plains, particularly after heavy rains can look quite dramatic and appear quite permanent in newly installed projects. The appearance of this discolouration can look particularly disturbing on light coloured pavers or concrete surfaces. The reality is that these tannins can be very easily cleaned away using any number of readily available deck cleaning solutions. When using these products, it is very important to following the manufacturers instructions closely to avoid damaging the furniture. The leaching process slows significantly over time but depending on the timber choice and the location, the cleaning process may need to be carried out a couple of times during the first 3-6 months of install.

Timber - Treatment

Mos treats all timber elements with a good quality decking oil such as Sadolin Hardwood Oil with the 'teak' tint that adds some additional UV protection, Cabot's Ultradeck, Quantum Timber Plus and Cutek 'Extreme' are other good options. These types of finish dry out over time and will require periodic reapplication to maintain a quality appearance. We recommend an initial application 3 months after delivery and every 6 months after that. These products should be applied in line with the manufacturers instruction. Without this treatment the timber will gradually take on a weathered, silver appearance and will be more likely to develop surface cracks or checks.

To treat weathered timber, it is best to lightly sand the timber, then wash it down to remove any residual dirt and dust. There are also products that can be used to clean back older, weathered timbers before they re-oiled. It is important that the timber is dry before applying one or two coats of the recommended oil with a clean cloth or small brush.

As a general maintenance process, oiled timber is best cleaned using warm water and a non abrasive cloth.

Composite - Treatment

The composite products that Mos uses are typically machined to size. Although these products don't require the same care and maintenance regime that is expected of timber, Mos recommends that a suitable sealer be used for seating and tables elements to minimise the likelihood and appearance of staining. Although they're not as porous as natural timber, the natural fibres that form part of the make-up of these products can still absorb oils and result in discolouration on the surface of the material. If this happens to untreated composites, there are products available that can clean them, but it is best to use a sealer to avoid having these stains appear in the first place. It is important to mention that these sealants have a tendency of darkening the composite slightly.

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As a general maintenance process, composites are best cleaned using Aqualis Coating Composite Bright cleaner mixed in a 1:20 ratio. This mix is suitable for a regular cleaning regime but can be used in a 1:12 ratio if only used 6 monthly.

The sealer may need to be re-applied after 12-18 months. Prior to a re-application of the sealer, the original finish will need to be completely stripped from the composite using an appropriate stripper. The stripped composite will then need to be thoroughly cleaned before the sealer is re-applied. 3 coats of sealer are recommended. Follow manufacturers instructions for full details of this process.

Powder Coated Metal

To clean your powder coated surface:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

Detergents that recommend the use of gloves when handling should be avoided as this is a good indication that the detergent is harsh and therefore, unsuitable for cleaning your powder coating.

Although some strong solvents are recommended for removing sealants or other building residues, these may be harmful to the extended life of the powder coated surface and should be avoided as the damage may not be visible immediately and may take up to twelve months to appear. If paint splashes, sealants or other residue need to be removed, then either Methylated Spirits, Turpentine or White Spirits may be used safely.

Where the surface has been damaged to expose the underlying finish, a touch up is required. If the underlying zinc finish has also been damaged to expose raw metal, the damaged coatings need to be repaired quickly to avoid corrosion damage. Where the zinc coating has been damaged apply Silver Gal or Cold Gal rust protector as per the instructions provided. Once this is dry, apply a top coat using Dulux pressure pack cans matched to the correct Dulux powder coat colour.

Polished, Cast Aluminium

To clean your polished, cast aluminium surface:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

Do not use any abrasive cleaners, as aluminium is a relatively soft metal and abrasives will dull the finish. Although the finish will develop a patina with use, a metal polishing liquid like Brasso can be used to polish the surface. Depending on the location of the damage, deep scratches may be ground out and the surface re-polished but this should only be done by a professional.

Anodised or Brass Plated Aluminium

To clean your anodised or brass plated aluminium surfaces:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

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Do not use any abrasive cleaners, as aluminium is a relatively soft metal and abrasives may damage the anodised finish. Due to its relatively high mineral content, bore water should be avoided as it can result in staining and cause long term damage to the anodised coating.

Stainless Steel

To clean your stainless steel surfaces:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

To clean more stubborn stains and address surface scratches, it may be necessary to use a proprietary stainless steel cleaner. These cleaners can help to remove surface stains if the directions for use are followed carefully. Be sure not to use any abrasive pads that have been used on mild steel products, or be made from mild steel. These will contaminate the surface with mild steel fragments, which will result in the appearance of surface rust.

'TEA STAINING'

Surface oxidation or 'tea staining' occurs most commonly on stainless steel surfaces within 5kms from the surf. However, wind exposure, higher temperatures, local sheltering, and elevated pollution levels, can create environments where tea staining might occur 20 kilometres or more from the surf. Mos recommends the use of grade 316 stainless steel within these more demanding environments to minimise (but not eliminate) the likelihood of tea staining developing. If treated quickly and properly the base material will not lose any integrity and deeper, more permanent corrosion will not take hold.

For a more detailed article in relation to preventing coastal corrosion (or tea staining) please refer to the Australian Stainless Steel Development Association website:

www.assda.asn.au/technical-info/technical-faqs/preventing-coastal-corrosion-tea-staining

Galvanised Steel

To clean your galvanised steel surface:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

If the galvanised finish has been damaged to expose raw metal, the damaged coating needs to be repaired quickly to avoid corrosion damage. Apply Silver Gal or Cold Gal rust protector as per the instructions provided to the damaged area.

Polished Brass

To clean your polished brass surfaces:

1. Carefully remove any loose deposits with a wet, clean cloth
2. Use a soft brush (non abrasive) or cloth, and a mild household detergent solution to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Rinse off with fresh water
4. Dry with a clean cloth to avoid water marks.

Do not use any abrasive cleaners, as they will tend to dull the finish. Although the finish will develop a

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Replacement Parts

Refreshing your Mos product might require worn or damaged parts to be replaced. Mos recommends carrying extra parts in stock in order to quickly replace those parts that are more prone to damage or wear (eg Timber slats). This will avoid the inconvenience of having your street furniture out of service for any longer than it needs to be.

Please contact Mos directly if you require any replacement parts, or advice on the specification of, or the best source of third party fasteners or fixings.

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