

CARE + MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Powder-Coated Aluminum Panels

Simple aftercare for the lasting appearance of your Garden Elements architectural panels.

The short version

Rinse away loose dirt, wash with a mild pH-neutral detergent and a soft cloth or sponge, then rinse thoroughly before the cleaner dries. Clean on a cool, shaded surface.

Routine Cleaning - Five Easy Steps

1	Choose the right time. Clean when the panel is cool to the touch and out of direct sun. Avoid hot surfaces.
2	Remove loose debris. Gently rinse with clean, low-pressure water. Do not use a high-pressure washer or steam jet.
3	Wash gently. Mix a small amount of mild, pH-neutral detergent with clean water. Apply with a soft microfiber cloth, non-abrasive sponge, or very soft brush.
4	Rinse completely. Work in manageable sections and rinse with clean water before detergent can dry on the finish.
5	Dry if needed. Allow the panels to air-dry or use a clean, soft towel to help prevent water spots.

Recommended Cleaning Frequency

Exposure	Suggested minimum schedule
Typical inland setting	At least once every 12 months
Dusty, urban, or high-traffic setting	Every 6 months, or as conditions require
Coastal, poolside, irrigation, or highly corrosive setting	At least every 3 months; rinse salt, chlorine, fertilizer, and mineral residue promptly

Clean localized contaminants such as bird droppings, tree sap, adhesive residue, fertilizer, pool chemicals, and sprinkler deposits as soon as practical.

PROTECTING THE FINISH

What to Avoid

- Abrasive powders, scouring pads, steel wool, scrapers, or stiff brushes
- Strongly acidic or alkaline cleaners, bleach, ammonia, or products with unknown ingredients
- Acetone, MEK, paint thinner, lacquer thinner, aggressive degreasers, or unapproved solvents
- High-pressure washing, steam cleaning, or holding a spray nozzle close to cut edges and joints
- Cleaning hot panels or allowing detergent, dirty water, or chemicals to dry on the surface
- Wax, polish, sealant, or graffiti remover unless Garden Elements approves the product in writing

Important - installed hardware

Do not spray-paint nuts, bolts, washers, or other hardware after the panels are installed. Overspray can create visible halo marks on the powder-coated finish. Hardware should be finished before installation or handled using a project-specific approved method.

Stubborn Spots and Unfamiliar Cleaners

- **Start mild.** Repeat the standard wash before moving to a stronger product.
- **Test first.** Try any proposed cleaner on a small, inconspicuous area and check the dried result before continuing.
- **Ask before using solvents.** For adhesive, grease, paint, mineral deposits, graffiti, or other difficult contamination, contact Garden Elements before applying specialty chemicals.

Minor Scratches and Touch-Up

For a small scratch that exposes bare aluminum, clean and dry the area. Apply only Garden Elements-approved touch-up paint with a fine artist's brush, keeping the repair confined to the exposed spot. Touch-up may differ slightly from the factory-cured finish. For widespread damage, peeling, corrosion, or a prominent repair, photograph the condition and contact Garden Elements first.

Periodic Inspection

- Check panels and cut edges for chips, scratches, staining, or finish damage.
- Check fasteners, brackets, frames, and joints for looseness or corrosion. Have installation or structural concerns evaluated by the installer or another qualified professional.
- Keep soil, mulch, standing water, plant growth, and chemical spray from remaining against the panels or support system.
- After delivery or installation, remove temporary foam, plastic, tape, and protective wrapping promptly. Trapped heat or moisture can mark the finish.

Questions about a cleaner or repair?

Send Garden Elements a photo of the affected area, the project name, the powder-coat color (if known), and the product you plan to use. We will help determine the safest next step.

GARDEN ELEMENTS

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General care guidance for Garden Elements powder-coated aluminum panels. Project-specific coating manufacturer instructions, warranty terms, and contract documents govern if they differ from this guide.