

CARE + MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Composite Architectural Panels

Practical care instructions for preserving the finish and appearance of Garden Elements composite panels.

The short version

Remove dust gently, use only a mild diluted soap when needed, avoid scrubbing and high-pressure water, and dry the panel promptly. Always test a cleaning method in an inconspicuous area first.

Routine Care - Five Simple Steps

1	Begin with dry cleaning. Remove surface dust using a vacuum with a clean, soft-brush attachment or a dry microfiber cloth.
2	Prepare a mild solution. If deeper cleaning is required, dilute a small amount of mild soap in clean water. Avoid harsh household or industrial cleaners.
3	Clean without scrubbing. Use a soft sponge or cloth with light pressure. Do not scour, scrape, or aggressively rub the decorative finish.
4	Remove soap residue. For water-tolerant exterior panels, rinse gently with moderate hose pressure. For veneer panels, wipe with a separate barely damp cloth instead of rinsing.
5	Dry promptly. Use a clean, soft towel and make sure edges, openings, seams, and hardware are not left wet.

Care by Panel Type and Location

Panel condition	Recommended approach
Interior painted or coated panel	Vacuum with a soft brush; spot-clean only when needed
Exterior water-tolerant panel	Gently rinse with a garden hose using moderate pressure; dry or allow to drain completely
Veneer-finished panel	Use minimal moisture; wipe with a barely damp cloth and dry immediately

Address spills, fingerprints, dust buildup, and outdoor deposits promptly so they do not become harder to remove.

PROTECTING THE FINISH

What to Avoid

- Scouring pads, abrasive powders, steel wool, scrapers, stiff brushes, or aggressive rubbing
- Solvents, paint thinner, acetone, harsh degreasers, or cleaners with unknown ingredients
- High-pressure washing, pressure nozzles held close to the surface, or steam-cleaning equipment
- Soaking veneer panels or allowing water to collect along edges, cutouts, joints, or mounting points
- Leaving soap, dirty water, spills, or cleaning solution to dry on the finished surface
- Wax, polish, stain, sealant, or repair coating unless Garden Elements approves the product first

Important - veneer panels require minimal water

Veneer-finished composite panels should not be cleaned with a large amount of water. Do not rinse, hose down, or saturate a veneer panel. Use a soft cloth that is only slightly damp, keep moisture away from exposed edges and seams, and dry the surface immediately.

Spots, Spills, and Unfamiliar Cleaners

- **Blot first.** Lift a fresh spill with a clean absorbent cloth instead of spreading it across the panel.
- **Test first.** Apply the proposed soap solution to a small hidden area and inspect the fully dried result before cleaning the rest of the panel.
- **Ask before escalating.** For adhesive, ink, paint, grease, mineral deposits, or another difficult mark, contact Garden Elements before trying specialty chemicals.

Finish Damage and Repairs

Do not sand, fill, paint, stain, or refinish a composite panel without project-specific direction. If a panel is scratched, chipped, swollen, delaminated, faded, or otherwise damaged, photograph the area and contact Garden Elements. The correct repair depends on the panel material and decorative finish.

Periodic Inspection

- Check the face, cutouts, and edges for scratches, chips, swelling, separation, stains, or finish changes.
- Check fasteners, brackets, frames, and joints for looseness, corrosion, or moisture traps. Have installation concerns evaluated by the installer or another qualified professional.
- Keep soil, mulch, standing water, vegetation, irrigation spray, and cleaning chemicals 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 affect the surface.

Questions about a cleaner or repair?

Send Garden Elements a photo of the affected area, the project name, the panel finish (if known), and the cleaning product you are considering. We will help determine the safest next step.

GARDEN ELEMENTS

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General care guidance for Garden Elements composite architectural panels. Project-specific material and finish instructions, warranty terms, and contract documents govern if they differ from this guide.