Powdercoated Planters Operation and Maintenance Manual

Once manufacturing is complete, we wash and degrease the surface of the product to remove any impurities from the steel that will hinder the powder coated layer adhering to the substrate. We then apply a polyester powder to the planter using an electric static charge to ensure an even coating, this then is cured in an oven, so the colour binds to the steel.

Whilst powder coating is an extremely durable and weather-resistant surface it is still important to maintain powder coated surfaces to keep your products looking their best over time.

Exposure to various environmental conditions over time without proper care and maintenance can lead to degradation of the Powdercoated finish. Conditions such as:

- Sun
- Rain
- Wind
- Pollution
- Extreme Cold/ Hot weather
- Saltwater
- Electrical current
- Dissimilar metals

Proper care and maintenance is crucial to extend the life of your Powdercoated planters.

1. Installation

Handling and Installation of the planter is paramount to the longevity of the product. Mishandling the planter could lead to damage to the planter itself or damage to the Powdercoated finish which might not be obvious initially but could cause issues over time . If your planters are damaged through the installation process, please refer to section 4. Repairing of this manual.

Ensuring the planter is fully supported by installing on a flat/ solid surface is of the upmost importance to ensure the structure of the planter isn't exposed to any unnecessary stresses over time.

In a live site environment, ensure any other construction materials are removed immediately from the Powdercoated surface. Materials such as concrete, plaster, paint are removed before it dries.

If your planters are damaged through the installation process, please refer to section 4. Repairing of this manual.

Ensure any machinery operating nearby doesn't throw debris or sparks up at the Powdercoated planter.

Refrain from using nuts, bolts or any fixings that might come in contact with the planters of any material other than mild steel. This could have a rection with the steel and ultimately damage the Powdercoated layer.

2. Cleaning

We recommend a regular cleaning routine to clear surface pollutants, debris etc from the powder coated finish. Please follow these guidelines when cleaning:

- Avoid using harsh chemicals. No bleach, abrasive cleaners or solvent based cleaners. Use warm, mild ph. Neutral soapy water.
- Avoid using abrasive cloths, steel wool, Brillo pads etc on the Powdercoated surface. Use soft sponges, wet and dry microfibre cloths or a natural soft bristle brush.
- After cleaning use clean cold water to rise off any excess soap
- Never use a power washer, boiling water, or steam
- Should your Powdercoated planters become heavily soiled, have graffiti or have oil or grease present it is almost certain that it will be impossible to clean using mild detergent (as described above). Do not use harsh solvent based or abrasive cleaners. Please seek the help of a professional/ specialist cleaning contractor.

Please Note. If you're unsure about what materials to use for cleaning, test them on a small inconspicuous area of the Powdercoated planter and return after a couple of day to test suitability.

3. Inspections

We recommend a regular inspection routine to identify any damage to the Powdercoated planter surface. It is important that damage to the Powdercoated surface is identified and corrected quickly as to not allow moisture in-between the Powdercoated layer and the steel.

If any damage goes through to the bare steel (i.e. the Powdercoated layers and the zinc layer on the steel is damaged), there is a risk of rusting. Excessive damage such as this needs to be treated straight away, once rusting has started it can spread if not treated and managed quickly.

4. Repairing

Any repair work must be carried out on a warm, dry day with no risk of rain. We recommend working on a day with no wind.

In order to repair damaged powder coating you will need a series of fine grit sandpaper/ cloths, acrylic aerosol spray to the matching RAL colour and sheen finish, and appropriate PPE.

This manual assumes you will conduct your own risk assessment and determine the correct level of PPE required.

- Remove all flaked, gathered or lumps of powder coat in and around the damaged area. We recommend you use a fine abrasive paper or cloth. Initially use 120 grit and progress through 240, 320 and finally 600 grit. Rub the damaged area until the surface is touch smooth. Ensure you rub the areas surrounding the area of repair to soften the edges and blend it in.
- Thoroughly shake the aerosol spray can to the manufacturer's instructions, at least 2 minutes.
- Test spray on a small hidden area to ensure colour and finish match.
- Mask off any adjacent areas. Note. You don't want to tape off the immediate perimeter of the damaged area/ spray zone. This could cause a defined line when removed.
- Apply several thin coats from a 30cm distance, move the can in a soft and steady motion around the damaged area. Do not spray for too long on a single area as this can cause running/ drips.
- Feather in the paint/ ensure a lighter application around the perimeter of the damages area to blend in the spray to the existing Powdercoated surface.
- Repeat until the desired finish and colour is achieved.

5. Frequency of Inspection and Cleaning.

Inspections should form part of a monthly inspection schedule to ensure any damage can be quickly dealt with.

Frequency of cleaning is determined by the environmental conditions present. Follow the below guidance as the maximum time between cleaning:

- Normal inland and urban environment: Every 3 months
- Industrial environment: Every 2 months
- Areas of high pollution: Every month
- Marine environment: Every month
- Note. This manual is intended to be a guide to prevent and successfully manage any damage to your Powdercoated planters. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list or all-encompassing guide for every scenario or instance of damage. If you feel that any issues, you're experiencing fall outside of the scope of this guide then feel free to call one of our experienced team members to discuss further.

All cleaning and maintenance should be recorded, detailing the method of cleaning, what products have been used, and what repair work has been undertaken.

In the case of a warranty claim against Weather It, this information will be requested.