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MANUFACTURER RECOMMENDATION:

zinc : cleaning

Introduction :

Zinc, considered a natural, organic, noble material, prestigious and of the highest quality. Durable, intrinsic material used with a pre-weathered (patina) finish, perceived and chosen in design as a "living" material, textured by its natural lineage, but fragile as well. Therefore, zinc is a material which reacts to its exposure, making this very property of zinc the reason it is chosen in design. See precautions below.

Work Process :

The immediate installation environment must be, during and at the end of the job, free of all particles and dust which may come in direct contact with the surfaces. During installation (work) process or cleaning, ensure to avoid tainting the finish via human traces. All adjacent works (circulation, isolation, masonry, exterior works, pouring or cutting of cement, washing, and scaffolding) will need to be realized while continuously protecting the zinc surfaces. All further work (job site cleaning or final cleaning or maintenance cleaning, washing of windows, swing-stage with vertical wheels) will have to avoid any and all contact with the zinc surface. Concerning swing-stage scaffolding during construction and subsequent washing, ensure to protect the white protective wheels with white cotton material.

Finish :

Medium to long term, with natural outdoor exposure, a film is deposited naturally on all panels in addition to the natural zinc and natural patina, reducing the visual difference of zinc in addition to exposure conditions and environment that can affect the visual rendering of zinc in a micro-climate. The natural patina of the outer air film as well as the natural air patina process will be continuous as a natural protection of the finish.

Traces :

Any handling or touching with bare hands can leave a visual trace on a pre-weathered finish, this visual trace is the result of "human moisture" coming in contact with the pre-weathered finish. When in contact with stagnant moisture, a "white rust" can form on the surface of the finish leaving indelible traces. The zinc finish is an intrinsic one, found in the material and not on the surface; therefore, no surface retouching is possible. In fact, an altered and or scratched pre-weathered finish will be naturally weathered in the long term. We do not recommend surface friction or cleaning during construction phase.

Recommendation : 1st Site-Cleaning

The first cleaning, during or after construction, both for windows and panels, should consist of a hot water pressure cleaning without any additives or cleaning products, with primary purpose of removing any dust and or residue from the construction site. As for the windows, (possible film or residue on the sides of the thermals + possible film or residue on frame extrusions) flush with water and rinse all adjacent panels, following the grain of zinc, avoiding surface friction. As a precaution, we suggest performing a cleaning test in parts not, or less visible for first test and study result: execute, let dry a few days and observe result.

Recommendation : Subsequent Cleaning

For subsequent cleaning of windows we suggest a light cleaning with hot water and a mild detergent (such as Palmolive) solution consisting of 1 cap mild detergent/ 15-20 litres of water, without additives, antifreeze or methyl alcohol. The main recommendation is to always flush the zinc surfaces with plenty of water. There is a possibility of streaks resulting from the window cleaning. Flush windows with water then rinse all adjacent panels following direction of the grain of the zinc, avoiding surface friction.

Long-Term :

It must be understood that zinc is a material reacting to its exposure. The first years of exposure will "substantially" make the visual finish of zinc react: by exposure to air, water and /or micro-climatic exposure. The phenomenon of the natural patina in zinc, under normal exposure conditions, these visual differences will become uniform and / or fade over the years.