

Cedral Sidings General Cleaning and Maintenance Information

TECHNICAL
NOTE
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1. Introduction



Facades covered with Cedral fibre cement products guarantee a beautiful dynamic appearance and architecture. To retain its attractive appearance, all façades, irrespective of the material used, should be serviced regularly. Then, unnecessary and high costs are avoided in the long term.

For that reason, periodic and preventive inspection of facades is recommended, so that imperfections can be discovered and resolved or repaired in good time. For that matter air inlets and outlets (ventilation and drainage gaps) must always remain clear.

2. Scope of this document

This cleaning advice is specifically intended for Cedral sidings used for façade applications. A number of basic principles are given here. For variations or additional advice, please contact your local Etex Exteriors Technical Support.

Cleaning must always take place in accordance with the conditions of the supplier of the cleaning system and under their supervision and guarantee conditions.

For product data and the details of the processing of the various panels reference is made to the product information sheets available from local Technical Support.

3. The Soiling Process

Dust, soot, oils, greasy substances, etc. are present in the air and rainwater and can deposit on a façade. If care is taken through considerate design and application, local soiling and runs can be avoided. This can be achieved by having adequate drip-moulding, good sealing and attention for corrodible materials such as zinc, copper, aluminium, steel, etc.

Where the façade is protected by a soffit or the like and hence not sufficiently exposed to rain a more regular inspection and wash down may be required to prevent any salt and dirt build up. Coastal projects may also require more regular inspection and wash down.

The degree and speed at which materials become soiled largely depends on their surface, chemical stability, hardness, porosity, ability to become electrostatically charged or not, etc.

If the soiling is allowed to work into the materials for too long, it is possible that it will have penetrated so deeply into the pores of the material that simple cleaning is no longer possible and a more rigorous cleaning method may be needed.

4. Maintenance vs cleaning



A façade covered with Cedral is low in maintenance. However, it is recommended to regularly check the facade for possible soiling and clean if necessary.

If maintenance is done on a regular basis, simple washing with a mild household detergent or soft soap solution followed by rinsing with clear water will suffice to keep an even appearance.

If general maintenance is forgotten or being neglected soiling could become not that easy to remove. Specific cleaning agents depending on the type of soiling may offer a solution to restore an even appearance.

5. Points of attention during cleaning

In principle, perform the cleaning of the facade over the entire surface, from top to bottom because partial cleaning can result in colour tonal differences.

Any cleaning product used must be ammonia free. Solvent based cleaners such as Acetone, white spirit, etc. attack the paint surface and are therefore not suitable.

If there is doubt on the suitability of the cleaning product, use it first on a leftover of the façade or a less visible part of the façade (e.g. behind rainwater drain) to check if the agent doesn't damage the surface. There is a risk that the panel colour coating may become cloudy.

Façade parts and other materials (metal parts, glass) on the building that can be affected by the cleaning agent used must be protected!

Do not use tapes that leave glue residues on the surface when fixing protective cover plastic foils!

6. Cleaning Method

There are two methods of cleaning façades:

- Chemical cleaning
- Mechanical cleaning (pressure washing)

Chemical cleaning procedure

The dirt is first soaked loose by the cleaning products, and then removed by water and energy (high pressure or water and sponge). Do not rub vigorously as it may damage or polish the surface coating.

The cleaning product is diluted with water in the proportions specified in the technical file and according to the degree of soiling, and applied to the surface to be cleaned by means of:



- a brush
- a hand atomiser
- a spraying appliance.

Max.



The slightly foaming mixture must be allowed to work in for 4 to 10 minutes, depending on the nature of the surface and the degree of soiling. One must however make sure that the product does not dry into the surface. A maximum of 10 minutes after the application of the cleaning product rinse copiously with:



- a sponge or cloth and water.
- a garden hose.
- a high pressure cleaner with clean water at low pressure.

Note: the use of abrasive materials such as scouring pads, scouring brushes, steel wool, etc. is not permitted, as they leave irreparable scratches on the surface.

Mechanical cleaning - Pressure washing

The use of a high pressure cleaner is subject to some restrictions.



- For coated surfaces, a pressure washer can be used in certain circumstances to remove more stubborn stains. This must be done by experienced operatives. A pressure rating of 20-30 bar is generally advised. The nozzle must remain at all times at least 60cm away from the facade. Incorrect use can lead to the removal of the panels coating.
- For uncoated surfaces a high pressure cleaner with clean cold water at a maximum pressure of 100 bar, or with clean warm water at a maximum pressure of 80 bar, and a maximum flow rate of 10 litres/minute can also be used. One must spray perpendicular to the surface at a distance of at least 25 cm. If spraying occurs at excessive pressure or a too short distance this can cause damage to the panel surface.

A dirt blaster or surface cleaner with rotating nozzles must not be used.

Stubborn stains

With stubborn staining (e.g. the edges of the sheets, leaching of iron and aluminium oxides, traces of silicon sealing, etc.) the cleaning product is applied undiluted with a soft sponge and rubbed in, before everything is rinsed with clean water.

Façade parts that can be affected by the cleaning product must be protected.

7. Security recommendations



Security recommendations

Always consult the safety recommendations in the associated Material Safety Data Sheet of the used cleaning agent.



Personal protective equipment

To avoid possible allergic reactions, it is advisable to wear rubber gloves, protective goggles and a face mask while working.

Trained operative

When working with any acid solutions the operative must be fully trained and experienced in its application and removal.

8. Cutting and Drilling

Sawing and drilling must take place in a dry environment. Sawings and drillings contain cement and can cause permanent stains on the surface of the panels if allowed to dry in.



Cleaning

Immediately after drilling and sawing clean off all dust with a dry micro-fibre cloth. Keep the cloth dry. Do not use a wet cloth as staining may occur. Keep the cloth free of grit. Only use cloth for cement dust removal. Clean cloth regularly.

If the dust can get on damp panels then remove all dust with a soft brush and plenty of water.

Smaller lime stains, cement splashes or limescale deposits and light efflorescence can be removed with a 5% malic acid solution or commercial citric acid in a 10% concentration. The panels are treated with the solution using a paintbrush or a soft brush. After an exposure time of 2 to 3 minutes, the remaining solution is rinsed off thoroughly with plenty of water, if necessary, with a pressurized water jet. If efflorescence is still visible after drying, the application must be repeated. The solution should never be allowed to dry on the surface.

9. Information



Information on the different applications can be found in the Etex Exteriors application guidelines. They can be found on the website or can be obtained from local support. Information about external suppliers can also be downloaded from the local websites.

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