**Powder Coating Care and Maintenance**

**Proper Care of Powdered Surfaces Is Essential**

[Powder coatings](https://www.lanecoatings.com/powder-coatings/) that are applied to metal products exposed to the weather will inevitably degrade over time. A number of conditions, including those found in nature, will contribute to shortening the life of this type of protective finish.

* Sun
* Rain
* Wind
* Pollution
* Cold weather
* Saltwater
* Electrical current
* Dissimilar metals

Given that there are so many elements that can affect the coating, it’s not surprising that it will break down over time.

The right type of care and maintenance is essential to combat the detrimental effects of the elements when finished parts are exposed to the sun, wind, rain, etc. No protective powder coating is entirely maintenance-free — over time, it will lose some (or all) of its decorative and protective properties due to the effects of weather and other influences.

Proper care and maintenance is crucial if you want to extend the service life of any metal surface.

**How to Clean Powder Coated Surfaces**

**Avoid Harsh Chemical Cleaners**

Powder coatings can be damaged by harsh solvents. A number of commercial cleaning products can cause damage to these types of finishes. Once the finish has become damaged, it is much more vulnerable to fading, staining and failure of the finish itself. When harsh chemical cleaners are used on powder coated surfaces, the life expectancy of the finish can reasonably be halved.

**Tips for Caring for Powder Coated Fences and Gates**

Powder coating is a very durable finish, but you can’t get away with treating it as though it doesn’t need any maintenance at all. Certain weather conditions can have a negative effect on the coating over time, for example.

When dirt and grime build up in the joints and crevices of [fences and gates](https://www.lanecoatings.com/project-gallery/fences/), it can create a place where bacteria gather and insects find a home. Both circumstances only serve to speed up the breakdown of the coating.

In coastal areas, saltwater can damage fences and gates situated close to the ocean. If they are not thoroughly cleaned at least once a year to remove the build up, salt will remain attached to the coating and dull its appearance, leaving it looking chalky. To extend the life of your fence and gate, you’ll need to make sure you clean it properly.

1. Start by wiping the surface gently with a wet sponge to remove any loose dirt and debris. You can also use a soft brush for this purpose. A wire brush or abrasive pad would be too harsh since it would also remove the finish. Your goal is to remove most of the surface dirt and dust at this point.
2. To remove salt and any other deposits from the surface of the fence and gate, use a soft brush and a mild household detergent.
3. Choose a detergent that is free from both solvents and petroleum-based chemicals when cleaning your powder-coated fence. One way to tell whether the detergent you are considering is safe for a powder-coated surface is whether the product is safe for your hands. If you need to protect your skin by wearing gloves when using the product, it’s probably not safe for the surface of the fence or gate, either.
4. Rinse the detergent off the fence or the gate using lukewarm water. At this point, you can allow it to either dry naturally or use a clean, dry cloth to dry it off if you would like to get a cleaner look.

**Pressure Washing a Fence or Gate**

You can use a pressure washer to clean a fence or a gate. This method is less time-consuming than cleaning by hand — however, it does tend to leave more residue behind. If you are trying to clean a fence or a gate in a coastal area, it may be challenging to remove all the salt using a pressure washer.

Hard water can present the same problem, due to the minerals it contains. They build up and harden on the surface of the fence or gate and are difficult to remove, even with the pressure of the water. Detergent softens the water to make cleaning a much easier process.

Here are some important tips for you to follow.

Immediately after your fence and gate are installed, check that there are no metal chips or filings remaining on the paintwork. You can remove them by hosing and gently wiping with a soft cloth.

The finish has a good resistance to accidental spilling of common solvents; however you should always wash your fence with water if there is an accident. Make sure that the posts and panels are always free of dirt, debris, fertilisers and anything corrosive. Minor scratches in your paintwork won’t affect the performance of your fence. Do not climb on your fence as it could damage the fence or cause an injury. Always keep overspray from poisons off your fence.

\*\*Damage to powder coatings may be caused during transportation or installation.

For on-site rectification of small damaged areas we can supply colour match touch up paints.

Use of the liquid coatings, including all personal protective equipment, should be in accordance with the paint manufacturer’s instructions.