



Introduction to Aluminium Finishing

When a new aluminium surface is exposed to the atmosphere a chemical reaction occurs which results in the formation of a protective oxide layer. The layer thickens very slowly over time. The formation of this layer effectively means that the structural integrity is unaffected by the atmosphere.

Where greater protection is required or where colours or textures are required to enhance the buildings appearance then aluminium can be coated by a variety of finishing processes.

Anodising was first used for architectural aluminium in the 1930s and liquid paints were developed in the 1950s. Since their development in the 1970s architectural powder coatings and their associated technologies have become the most widely used processes.

The relative technical, economic and environmental benefits of the alternative systems have driven the market changes as well as encouraging the development of internationally recognised architectural finishing specifications.