

# MODERN ALUMINUM & VINYL PRODUCTS LTD.

POWELL RIVER OFFICE/FACTORY  
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## VINYL WINDOW/DOOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Durable vinyl windows are a low-maintenance option for your home. An occasional heavy rainfall will usually keep exterior vinyl windows clean. However, if rainfall is sparse or does not do the job, you can clean exterior windows with a garden hose and gentle cleaning products. Routine cleaning with readily accessible products will remove mildew and grime from your interior vinyl windows. To preserve your warranty, read the window manufacturer's instructions and follow any specific cleaning recommendations.

### RECOMMENDED CLEANING SUPPLIES

A mild dish detergent and water mixture will clean vinyl windows without damaging the surface. Use the smallest amount necessary to clean the windows so that no residue remains after rinsing. For grease, crayons, mildew and other stubborn stains, use a water-based household cleaner or a solution of 30-percent vinegar and 70-percent water. Wipe window frames and panes with a soft, nonabrasive cloth. A soft-bristle brush will dislodge stubborn dirt and clean between the ridges in textured surfaces.

### EXTERIOR WINDOW CLEANING

Use a soft cloth or long-handled soft brush and soapy water to clean exterior windows. To rinse the windows and dislodge remaining debris, set your garden hose to a moderate stream of water and spray the windows, starting with the top and working your way downward. Do not use a direct, full-pressure spray which can leak into the vinyl frame components.

### INTERIOR WINDOW CLEANING

You can clean interior and exterior surfaces of many types of vinyl windows from indoors. For example, you can crank casement windows open or tilt single- or double-hung window sashes into the room. The sashes have tilt latches which release the sashes so that you can tilt them or remove them. Clean your vinyl window frames and panes with a soft cloth and soapy water. Wipe the windows with clear water and dry the surface with a soft cloth. Do not leave soap residue on the window.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Before you use a cleaning product, check the label to ensure its ingredients are acceptable under environmental laws in your state. Do not use cleaners that contain strong solvents or acids, which produce fumes and can permanently damage vinyl surfaces. Abrasive cleaners or pads can scratch vinyl windows. When you clean your windows, do not remove stickers that contain warranty information or other product certifications.



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## ANNUAL MAINTENANCE TIPS

1. Conduct a visual inspection of the inner and outer frame to look for physical damage, watermarks or stains that may indicate potential problems to be addressed. Check for signs of rust, especially on casement windows.
2. Clean and lightly oil all hinges and rollers. Check drainage holes as well to ensure they are clear. \*Obstructed drain holes potentially lead to water leaks.
3. A simple way to check plugged drain holes is to fill the track with water and check water retention. If the water dissipates and does not go through the drain hole, then the sealant at the joints should be carefully cleaned and re-caulked. Vacuum water out through outer drain holes to clean the drainage system.
4. Mechanical joints on PVC windows have factory-applied sealants. When cleaning the windows, ensure the caulking is not damaged. The window frame should be inspected annually to check for cracks, continuity and adhesion of the caulking.
5. Check all handles and latches for proper movement and function, adjust if necessary and clean regularly.
6. Check flashings to insure they are in good shape and all drainage slots are clear.
7. Clean vinyl and painted vinyl frames with lukewarm water, a mild detergent and a soft cloth. Conduct on an as needed basis.
8. Never use a pressure washer on any window or patio door. Doing so may result in a water ingress or damage to the exterior finish of the window or doorframe.
9. Avoid using razor blades, or other sharp objects and abrasive cleaners. They can damage window surfaces and scratch glass.
10. Some cleaners or solvents can damage vinyl surfaces and may cause discoloration. Immediately rinse or dry.
11. Check to ensure that the original weather stripping is still intact and working effectively. If there is any concern regarding the weather stripping, please contact Modern for further assistance.
12. Remove all window screens upon arrival of freezing weather conditions. Safely store screens until weather permits.
13. Inspect screens for any damage to the aluminum frames, and tears in the mesh. Contact your Modern rep if you require further assistance.

