



COMPOSITE DOORS

MAINTENANCE

Door leaf

At least every four months, clean the internal and external door facings and glass surfaces with a soft cloth and hot soapy water; rinse with water and dry off.

Outer frame

PVC-U frames

At least every four months, clean the internal and external surfaces of the frame to remove atmospheric grime; always use a soft cloth with mild liquid detergent solution, rinse with water and dry off.

Outer frame seals

On an annual basis, inspect the rubber seal fitted to the outer frame (visible with the door leaf open). If evidence of shrinking or

cracking or tearing is found, remove the seal from the groove completely (a sharp knife may be required – take care when doing this) and replace with new.

Hardware

Hinges

Clean the visible surface of the hinges on an annual basis. They should be kept free from dirt, debris and obstruction at all times. For colour-coated hinges (usually white, brown or gold in colour), use a soft cloth with hot soapy water, rinse with water and dry off.

Aluminium and die-cast colour-coated hinges have self-lubricating nylon bushes; do not lubricate these bushes.

Locking device

The key-way, latch and keeps should be kept free from dirt, debris and obstruction at all times.

Check operation of the key mechanism on an annual basis, with the door leaf open. If the key requires excessive force to engage the lock mechanism, then lubricate the key-way with a silicone-based spray lubricant; **do not use oil or grease.**

Lubricate the bevelled or rounded face of the latch and the latch-strike on the keep with a smear of petroleum jelly or grease. This also applies to each additional hook.

Lever handles and letterplates

Annually clean and remove dirt and debris from all moving parts. Lightly oil external moving parts with a light machine oil.

For stubborn stains, use a soft cloth with mild liquid detergent solution, rinse with water and dry off. Polish both handles and letterplates with a quality wax furniture polish, applying directly to the cloth and not the product.

Annually check that the external frame of the letterplate is flush with the face of the door. If evidence of a gap is found,

tighten the fixing screws located behind the internal flap; **do not over tighten screws.** If a gap is still evident, apply a small bead of high-modulus silicone around the full perimeter of the external frame.

Threshold

The term threshold refers to the frame fitting underneath the bottom edge of the door leaf, which acts as a weather seal and water barrier; this may be part of the frame or a device fixed directly on top of the cill (if fitted) or onto the base of the door opening. Some thresholds may include an additional fitting to the bottom edge of the door.

The threshold components should be kept free from dirt, debris and obstruction at all times.

Periodically, check that drainage holes are free from any obstruction. If blocked, remove obstruction and flush through with water to ensure correct drainage.

Annually inspect any weather seals. If evidence of shrinking or cracking or tearing is found, remove the seal completely and replace with new.

Note: A rain deflector (or 'drip bar') must always be fitted.

Precautions

Do not use solvent-based or abrasive cleaning products, or products containing bleaching agents.

Do not use metal polish or a wire brush.

When using cleaning and lubricating products, always follow the manufacturer's instructions. For cleaning products, always test a small area of the product in an obscure location first.