

CIVIC SHOWER SCREENS & WARDROBES

ALUMINIUM AND CHROME CARE OVERVIEW

CIVIC | SHOWER SCREENS
& WARDROBES



Quality and **Affordable** products with **Service** to match.

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THE BASICS OF ALUMINIUM

All metals are susceptible to a natural process known as corrosion. Both natural and man made environments help reduce metals to their natural form, though the extent at which this occurs can vary considerably. In the case of aluminium, this natural form is aluminium oxide.

Aluminium and its alloys generally are more corrosion resistant compared to others. The moment aluminium is exposed to oxygen in air; a very thin, inert and transparent native oxide layer naturally forms and gives aluminium its good corrosion resistance. Surface treatments such as anodising and powdercoating are finishes designed to further improve upon this property.

Corrosion resistance, coupled with their mechanical properties, give Aluminium and its alloys their privileged use in many diverse applications and constructions.

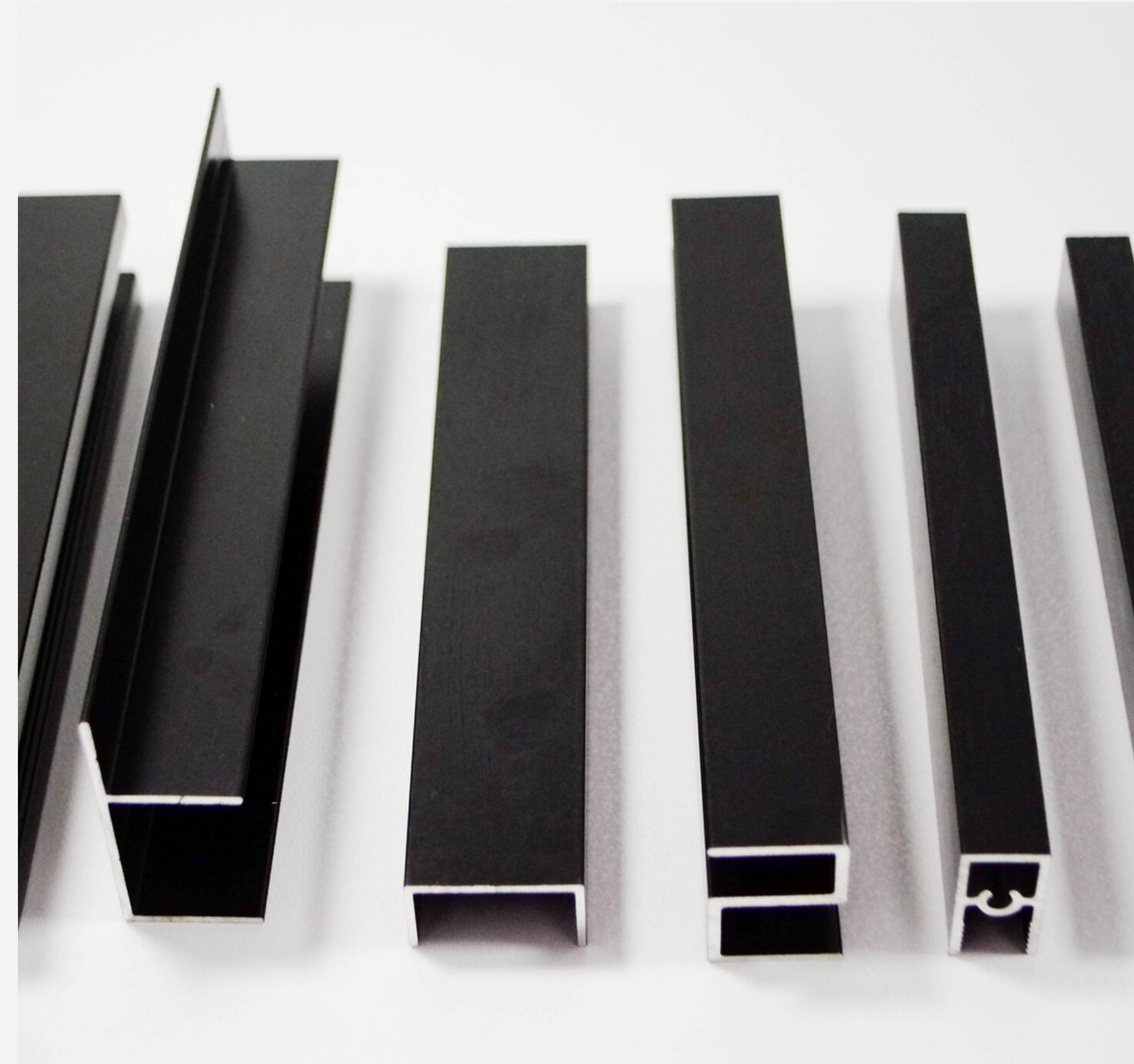


RUST V CORROSION

Most metals want to corrode back to some form of ore. (Gold is one notable exception.) Corrosion starts with oxidation, where atoms of metal link up with oxygen, followed by a gradual, or not so gradual, breakdown. Rusting is a specialized form of corrosion that only iron and steel go through.

Rust is when the iron oxidizes and flakes off. It's accelerated by moisture. Flaking exposes fresh metal beneath, which in turn oxidizes and flakes.

Aluminum oxidation happens faster than that of steel, because aluminum has a really strong affinity for oxygen. Rather than flaking though, aluminum oxide just forms a hard, whitish-colored surface skin. When all the aluminum atoms have bonded with oxygen the oxidation process stops.



ALUMINIUM CORROSION

Scratching this oxide skin exposes bare metal, and the process begins again. It won't eat the metal away though, except under two conditions. First, if chlorides or sulfides are around they'll attack the aluminum oxide layer.

Chlorides are compounds of chlorine. Sodium chloride would be an example, which is the chemical name for salt. And where do you find lots of salt? In the ocean. Likewise, sulfides are sulfur compounds. They're prevalent in areas of polluted air.

Second, if conditions are right you could experience galvanic corrosion. this is an electrical effect experienced when dissimilar metals are brought close together in a conducting liquid. For example, immerse brass and aluminum in seawater and electrons move from the aluminum to the brass. This can be a problem in boats where brass fittings are close to or even in contact with aluminum. (Fuel tanks are a prime example.)



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POWDER-COATED AND ANODISED ALUMINIUM

Powder-coat, once oven cured, becomes a solid and tough coating which adheres to the surface of properly pre-treated Aluminium. Powder coatings can be made in a multitude of colours, with various lustres, textures and special effects. The great range of colour options, make powdercoating a versatile and popular choice.

Aluminium Anodised finishes, result in the controlled formation of an oxide layer which is much harder, more durable and about a thousand times thicker than the thin oxide layer naturally formed. It has excellent tolerance in coastal environments and its appearance proves popular in architecturally designed features as well as window and door suites.

Both anodising and powder coating provide finished items with decorative value, as well as a level of protection from their environment. However, as with other types of metal, certain conditions and environments can render aluminium aesthetically unacceptable, even once Powder-coated or Anodised. It is therefore prudent to provide precaution and care for finished aluminium articles and components. Some of these precautions and care measures are listed below.



THE BASICS OF CHROME

Chrome is a metal and one of the naturally occurring chemical elements, otherwise known as Chromium. Chrome in its solid form is not practical but the properties it contains are valuable when layered on other metals such as aluminium, stainless steel, brass, copper or plastic.

Chrome is often confused with other chemicals that give a shiny finish, like polished aluminium and electro polished stainless steel. Chrome plating is brighter, bluer and more mirror-like that creates an accurate reflection compared to other finishes.

Chrome plating (less commonly chromium plating), often referred to simply as chrome, is a technique of electroplating a thin layer of chromium onto a metal object. The chromed layer can be decorative, provide corrosion resistance, ease cleaning procedures, or increase surface hardness. Sometimes, a less expensive imitator of chrome may be used for aesthetic purposes.



DOES CHROME RUST?

A chrome finish is actually meant to work as a protectant layer against rust. So why are you seeing rust on your chrome bathroom fixtures? Unfortunately, rust can occur when the chrome plating is damaged from scratching or dents, and the metal underneath comes in contact with moisture and oxygen in the air. The good news is, you don't have to live with those rust stains forever. Read more to find out how to clean chrome bathroom fittings.

Daily Care Tips

- Use a soft cloth or microfibre for regular wiping.
- Dry fittings after use to reduce water spots and mineral buildup.
- In hard water areas, more frequent cleaning may be required.
- Avoid harsh chemicals, abrasives, or scrubbing pads.

What to Avoid

- Abrasive pads, steel wool, or scouring sponges.
- Harsh chemical cleaners, bleach, ammonia, or solvent-based products.
- Powder cleaners like Comet, Ajax, or cerium oxide.
- Allowing cleaning solutions to sit on aluminium or chrome for extended periods.

⚠ Failure to follow these instructions may cause damage that is not covered under warranty.



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RECOMMENDED CLEANING PRODUCTS

Using harsh commercial chemical cleaners will cause corrosion and damage your aluminium products over time. Corrosion caused by incorrect cleaning methods will not be covered under our warranty. We recommend the following cleaning solutions:

Glass

A 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water
Soft microfibre cloth
Squeegee

Aluminium and Chrome

A 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water
Flat tip instrument or chopstick
Cotton ball tip
Soft microfibre cloth

Silicone

A 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water
Soft brush

Hinges

A 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water
Soft microfibre cloth



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ALUMINIUM AND CHROME CLEANING

FULL SHOWER SCREEN CLEANING GUIDE FOUND [HERE](#)

Step 1: Wipe away loose dirt and grime from aluminium surfaces and tracks using a clean cloth. Spray a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water onto the tracks.

Step 2: Let the vinegar solution sit for 3–5 minutes to help loosen any stuck-on dirt or residue.

Step 3: Wipe down the aluminium and tracks with a soft microfibre cloth. Rinse the cloth frequently to avoid spreading grime.

Step 4: For hard-to-reach areas, wrap a thin, sturdy cloth around a flat-headed tool (like a spatula or chopstick) and gently scrub along the tracks.

Step 5: Use a cotton swab or a soft microfibre cloth to clean narrow sections of the tracks. Repeat wiping and rinsing until all dirt and buildup are removed.

Step 6: Finally, rinse or wipe the aluminium thoroughly with plain water to remove any remaining vinegar solution, ensuring the surface is clean and residue-free.



WARRANTIES

CONDITIONS

If a fault in the product during the term of warranty which is due to poor workmanship or materials, Civic will either repair or replace the product (at its discretion) at no charge to you, during normal working hours.

The warranty applies to the original residential purchase only and is not transferable. Satisfactory proof of purchase date must be furnished at the time of notification of defect for any claim under warranty to be enforceable.

A charge will be applied for a service call made where the Civic product is not faulty.

The warranty is in addition to and in no way limits, varies OR excludes any express or implied rights and remedies under any relevant legislation in the state or territory of sale.



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