

FIELD PAINTING OF PRE-FINISHED ALUMINUM RAILINGS, FRAMES AND ENCLOSURES

When aluminum components such as railings, frames and enclosures are due for refinishing, it is not practical in most cases to remove these components to a shop with a controlled temperature and humidity environment. This restriction generally precludes the use of shop applied, baked on high performance products and systems.

High-performance coatings having properties similar to automotive or aircraft finishes would best restore the finish. Low maintenance, high abrasion, wear resistance, and long-term aesthetic value can be obtained with these systems. Flex Bon Paints distributes Marine-Industrial Coatings. There are a few options within this line best suited for these architectural details.

When the aluminum components have already been field painted in the past, surface preparation and product selection problems are compounded. The stability of the prior coating and the compatibility with future topcoats becomes an issue of significant concern. In many cases, complete removal of prior field applied coatings is required.

In-field application near coastal exposure requires refinishing within a very narrow window following surface preparation in order to avoid surface recontamination by salt deposits. Generally, the high performance finish should be applied within four hours of the completion of cleaning and surface preparation. A thorough check of cleaning and surface preparation should be done prior to refinishing.

Existing fluropolymer finishes, such as Kynar or Duranar, should be scuff sanded with a fine grit abrasive pad or power tool to create a roughened surface profile in the existing film. Prior to scuff sanding, wash off all dust and dirt with water. Use a solvent wipe to remove grease, oils, lotion or other contaminants. Following scuff sanding, again remove all dust using a solvent wipe or water rinse. Allow prepared surface to fully dry.

Apply a thin film of a fast dry alkyd primer, such as MARINE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS #QDP-9 FB Universal Quick-Dry Rust-Inhibiting Primer, or use MARINE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS #P-12 Pure Epoxy. Use MARINE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS #P-12 Pure Epoxy as a spot primer or as a full prime coat on any bare aluminum surface. Apply in a continuous defect-free film and allow to dry thoroughly.

Topcoat the dry primer with MARINE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS #TPU-188 FB Duraplate Acrylic Urethane. This system closely performs with the same results of the original fluropolymer system.

For ultimate service life and maximum performance, use a clear topcoat of MARINE INDUSTRIAL COATINGS #TPU-188 FB Duraplate Acrylic Urethane.