



 **EQUITONE**
Fibre cement facade materials

A photograph of a wall made of large, rectangular, light-colored fibre cement facade panels. The panels are arranged in a grid pattern with dark, recessed joints. The lighting is even, highlighting the smooth texture of the panels.

US PLANNING & APPLICATION GUIDE

Maintenance

A number of basic principles are given here. Cleaning must always take place in accordance with the recommendations of the supplier of the cleaning system and under their supervision and guarantee.

Inspections

All façades, irrespective of the material used, should be inspected and if necessary serviced regularly. Then, unnecessary and high costs are avoided in the long term. The building also retains its continuous and attractive appearance. If one allows the soiling to work into the materials for too long, it is possible that it will have penetrated so deeply that simple cleaning is no longer possible and a more rigorous cleaning method may be needed.

The Soiling Process and Metal Cover Flashings

Dust, soot, oils, greasy substances, etc. are present in the air and rainwater and can be deposited on a façade. If care is taken through considerate design and application, local soiling and runs can be avoided. This can be achieved by having adequate drip-moulding, good sealing and attention to combat corrodible materials such as zinc, copper, aluminum, steel, etc. The degree and speed at which materials become soiled largely depends on the surface, chemical stability, hardness, porosity, ability to become electro statically charged or not.

Graffiti

The UV-cured EQUITONE [pictura] and EQUITONE [natura pro] surface coating provides superior protection against common colors and spray paints. It is smooth and cleanable. The [pictura] and [natura pro] surface coating meets the requirements of the placement test and test cycle 2 of the Quality Association for Anti-Graffiti eV for surface-protective anti-graffiti systems (ILF 4-013/2006 report of the Institute for paints and inks eV).

Graffiti can be removed with dedicated graffiti removers. Cleaners with volatile solvents should not be used. Below is a selection of appropriate graffiti removers. The application instructions of the manufacturer's should be strictly adhered too. Costec Technologies and Cleaner Liquid Cleaner Technologies, www.costec.eu Scribex P3 400, www.henkel.de Rapidly 031, E-mail: pregernig@t-online.de

Note that when an on-site graffiti protection is applied to the panels the appearance of the panel may change as the protection effects the light reflectance of the panel's color.

Maintenance Cleaning

There are two methods of cleaning façades, mechanical cleaning and chemical cleaning. In principle, perform the cleaning of the facade over the entire surface, because partial cleaning can result in color tonal differences. Normal stains can be removed with a sponge and water. The use of abrasive materials such as scourer, steel wool, etc. is not allowed, as they leave irreparable scratches on the surface.

Pressure Washing

For EQUITONE [natura], [natura pro], [pictura] and [textura], a pressure washer can be used in certain circumstances to remove more stubborn stains. This must be done by experienced operatives. A pressure rating of 290-430 psi (20-30 bar) is generally advised. The nozzle must remain at all times at least 60cm away from the facade. Incorrect use can lead to the removal of the panels coating.

For EQUITONE [tectiva] a pressure cleaner with clean water at a maximum pressure of 1800 psi (125 bar) and a maximum flow rate of 2.65 gallons/minute (10 liters/minute) can also be used. One must spray perpendicular to the surface at a distance of at least 10" (255mm). If spraying occurs at excessive pressure or a too short distance this can cause damage to the panel surface.