

The following information gives basic guidelines on the maintenance of the Sirca Exterior painted systems on windows, doors, and joinery.

Windows are continuously exposed to potentially harmful external agents. The most aggressive atmospheric agent to which the joinery is exposed is undoubtedly sunlight, especially the ultraviolet component which can cause light damage to the lignin, resin extraction and cause the migration of other substances to the surface after it is heated, as well as a change in the polymer backbone of the paint film. The excessive absorption of water or humidity can cause migration of colouring agents naturally present in the wood, to come to the surface; in addition, it can also cause swelling of the fibres and may change the size of the joinery. The stability of the size of a wooden frame over time is a crucial factor in ensuring the best performance in terms of protection of the coating systems applied. Smog can also damage the painted surfaces, either to the chemical reaction triggered and the deposit of fine particles. For these reasons, we recommend that you follow few simple rules for maintenance and cleaning to keep the wood looking good and performing properly over time.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE:

To further improve the performance of the windows and keep the frames looking good, we recommend some simple operations that are cost and time effective. When you clean the glass panes, at least twice a year (in the spring and autumn), we recommend washing the painted surfaces with Sirca “Neutral Detergent for Wood” ID1200. Remember not to use aggressive cleaning agents containing solvents (i.e. alcohol), acids (i.e. descalers), alkalis (i.e. ammonia), abrasive substances or bleach. You should not use products for furniture or floors either (i.e. wax or polishes). Spray Neutral Detergent for Wood ID1200 on both the glass and wood frames, and remove the dirt using a clean cloth. Apply Wood Care IR2100 on the entire surface of the frame, spread evenly using a microfibre cloth and lastly, dry with a dry microfibre cloth. Make sure there are no smog or dust deposits in the corners or cracks. This procedure is suitable both for wood only frames and for wood-aluminium frames. Clean the external drainage channels to eliminate any obstacles, leaves and anything blocking the flow of water.

EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE:

Every 5-10 years, depending on the degree of exposure or aggressiveness of the atmospheric agents, it may be necessary to perform a deep and accurate maintenance procedure. How frequently this procedure is performed varies depending on the extent of exposure of the frame and the coating system used. Direct and constant exposure obviously will lead to deeper surface damage than less intense exposure. The goal in this case is to restore the natural shine and smoothness of the painted surface. IR2100 is a product created to restore the original brightness of the wooden joineries and make it longer lasting. It is fundamental that the paint film is not cracked and is in relatively good condition. If the fixtures are badly deteriorated, it will be necessary to sand them down and repaint them with alternative products.

Spray Neutral Detergent for Wood ID1200 on both the glass and wood frames, and remove the dirt using a clean cloth. Apply Fixture Renewal IR2100 with a cloth or a brush, taking care to apply a very thin and even film, avoiding any build-up. Lastly, leave to dry for 12 hours.

INSPECTION AND RESTORATION OF DAMAGED PARTS

During cleaning operations, it is advisable to check if there is any damage to the paint film, such as marks left by hail or by accidental knocks, which might allow water to penetrate under the paint film. On visual inspection, if you detect any damage as described above, it will be necessary to touch up the paintwork.

TOUCH-UP:

OWE750s04 is a transparent, water-based topcoat, designed for painted surfaces and the maintenance and restoration of frames, which creates high resistance to atmospheric agents with a pleasant aesthetic finish.

For correct use, follow the indications below:

- Section off the area to be retouched with paper tape to protect any part that do not need to be retouched.
- Sand the paint film with 320 grit sandpaper, following the grain of the wood.
- Apply a single coat of ready-to-use OWE750s04 topcoat.

If a more intense intervention is required, proceed as follows:

- Clean the surface with a cloth and a brush to remove any dirt
- Protect any hardware or part which do not need touching up with adhesive paper tape.
- Sand the surface down to the wood using an orbit sander with 150 grit sandpaper.
- Eliminate the dust generated with a clean brush.
- Apply the water-based stain with a brush, taking care to tint it to the original colour of the frame
- Leave to dry for at least two hours
- Applying at least one coat of OWE750s04.

In order to increase the protection of the frame, it is possible to apply one or more additional coats of product; wait at least two hours after the application of the first coat of OWE750s04, then apply subsequent coats.

Please consult the technical data sheets of the products involved for more details on how to apply them.

MAINTENANCE IN COASTAL AREAS

Exposure in coastal areas is harsher than in normal areas. Any scratch, abrasion or surface dent can potentially allow the infiltration of salt water that, due to its corrosive nature, causes severe damage to varnished surfaces. For this reason, we recommend cleaning the surfaces more frequently with Neutral Detergent for Wood ID1200, every three months (four times a year). Even the slightest damage to the paint film must be promptly repaired and restored as per the instructions described previously.

SEALS AND HARDWARE

- Check and tighten all screws. Lubricate the mechanical parts (hinges and locks).
- Check the integrity and elasticity of the seals which guarantee the airtightness of the window.
- Do not use aggressive detergents or solvents for cleaning.

SIX-MONTHLY CHECK – SUMMARY

- Check the state of wear of the seals.
- Lubricate the mechanical parts of the frame.
- Check and, if necessary, reapply the external silicone.
- Check for degradation of the finish (internal and external).
- Choose the most suitable maintenance procedure for your requirements.
- Remove any dirt.
- Wash the joineries.

Maintenance kits are available from ISF Group Ltd.

Please contact sales@isf.co.uk