

# CARE & MAINTENANCE OF YOUR DEARLY PLAQUE



To ensure the life of your plaque is maximised, a simple and regular maintenance program should be implemented.

## Protect your Plaque from the Environment

The frequency of recommended cleaning will vary depending on:

- The environment – if it is dry, has minor condensation, has high moisture
- The conditions – if it is a general or moderate condition or a mild, severe or tropical condition;

Some of the influencing factors that can impact the life of the powder coating include:

- Ultra violet light
- Levels of atmospheric pollution including salts, dirt, grime that can all accumulate over time
- Winds carrying air borne debris that can cause erosive wear of the coating e.g. sand causing abrasion
- Microclimates eg. geothermal, alkaline or acidic

## Recommended Care and Maintenance Schedule

It is recommended in environments with low salt, low pollutant and urban areas cleaning should take place at a minimum of every twelve months.

In areas where salts, pollutants and high corrosivity levels are prevalent, e.g. beachfront houses or industrial areas, it is recommended a cleaning program should be carried out more frequently at a minimum of every six months.

Sheltered areas can have a higher risk of coating degradation as wind-blown salt and other debris or pollutants may adhere to the surface and not be removed when it rains. These areas may require more frequent cleaning.

## How to Clean your Dearly Plaque 3 Easy Steps

Care and maintenance schedules are essential to ensure that the life of your plaque is maximised. Simply follow 3 important steps:

1. Carefully remove any loose surface deposits with a wet sponge by gently rubbing.
2. Clean by gently rubbing the surface with a soft brush (non-abrasive) and a dilute solution of a mild detergent, e.g. pH-neutral liquid hand or dishwashing detergent in warm water to remove dust, salt and other deposits.

For stubborn stains use only recommended solvents on the affected area, e.g. Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or methylated spirits and rinse off with clean water. Do not use other aggressive solvents.

3. Rinse the surfaces with clean fresh water after cleaning to remove all residues.

### The Do's & Don'ts of protecting your powder coating

DO	DON'T
<p><b>Use recommended solvents for stubborn stains only</b> Use only Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) or methylated spirits and rinse off with clean fresh water.</p>	<p><b>Use aggressive solvents<sup>1</sup></b> Do not use turpentine, white spirits, thinners, citrus based cleaners or other aggressive solvents on powder coating.</p>
<p><b>Regularly inspect</b> Inspect your Dearly Plaque often and clean more regularly if required.</p>	<p><b>Rub powder coated surfaces excessively</b> Do not rub powder coated surfaces excessively, especially metallic finishes.</p>
<p><b>Clean in mild conditions</b> Clean powder coated surfaces when the surface temperatures are below 25°C.</p>	<p><b>Allow sunscreen to come into contact with coated surfaces</b> It is universally recognised some sunscreens adversely affect powder coated finished.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Non approved solvents can cause damage that may not be visible immediately and may take up to twelve months to appear.

# LET'S TALK THE ENVIRONMENT & YOUR DEARLY PLAQUE



In terms of any environmental attributes, a significant advantage of powder coating, (over solvent based wet-spraying), is how safe it is considered for the environment and for the people who work with it.

- Powder coating is considered “green” technology as it doesn’t generate harmful solvents or airborne pollutants, such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).
- Many wet-spraying systems have high levels of VOCs (like formaldehyde), making them flammable and carcinogenic. These VOCs are slowly released into the air over time, and damage the ozone and can cause serious health problems to people exposed to them.
- Powder coat has no solvent so it is completely FREE of VOC’s and 100% safe
- Powder overspray during application, along with unused powder, can be captured and recycled with nearly 100% use of the coating, no waste!
- Waste is minimal, considered non-hazardous and acceptable for landfill
- Powder coating in general is considered non-toxic.
- Recycle your plaque at your metal scrap depot for reuse.
- Cemeteries can recycle plaques as part of the OrthoMetals program.

Dearly Plaques & Memorials aim to where ever possible reduce the carbon footprint of the manufacturing process of each plaque.

We value our Regional Victorian business location of forest, nature and wildlife and our goal is to have a very small footprint with our operations, encouraging reuse, recycling and minimal waste.

