

INSULCLAD CARE & MAINTENANCE

A guide on Maintenance of the Insulclad Rendered Wall System

The exterior walls of our homes shelter us from the forces of nature. These forces can be destructive and it is important that you protect your home by inspecting and maintaining its exterior on a regular basis to ensure the performance requirements of the Building Code are continuously met. Even the most durable of wall systems can fail if the owner does not follow through with regular maintenance. Following is a list of recommendations to maintain, preserve and protect your Insulclad Rendered Wall System.

To Maintain & Preserve

The exterior surfaces of your home should be cleaned on a regular basis (at least annually). This will help to improve your home's appearance and to preserve your paint system. Cleaning once per year will remove light soil as well as grime and airborne pollutants.

The exterior can be cleaned with a low-pressure water blaster (less than 450psi) using a fanjet of cold water at a 45 degree angle from the wall (not perpendicular). The fan of the water blaster should be kept a minimum of 20cm from the surface of the render in order to avoid damage.

Localised grime or ingrained dirt should be removed by cleaning with a scrubbing brush, a solution of detergent and warm water.

- o DO NOT attempt to remove heavy staining using a high-pressure water blaster.
- o DO NOT use solvent based products to clean the surface of your Insulclad Rendered Wall System

The system must remain in a weatherproof condition. Check for cracked, loose or missing sealant. You will find sealant in most areas where different surfaces meet and all sealed joints. These include around windows and doors, pipes, where walls meet the soffit line and where electrical fittings and handrails have been attached to walls. All deteriorated or damaged sealant should be removed and replaced as soon as it appears. We recommend that a Flexible sealant – paintable, UV stable MS sealant complying with Type F, Class 25LM of ISO 11600. EPS foam products are susceptible to chemical damage resulting from the use of sealants that contain solvents. The sealant must be free from solvents and having a VOC level of no more than 70g/Ltr Californian South Coast Air Quality Management District (rule 1168).

It is important to monitor areas that are heavily exposed such as any flashings, parapets and balcony handrail tops. Due to the minimal slope on these areas and the extremes in thermal movement they must endure, it is critical that they are well inspected and maintained.

If damage occurs, immediately contact your original installer and they will provide the support or technical expertise required to have the problem fixed. Because cracks may indicate underlying structural problems, they should always be inspected by a professional. Temporary repairs can be made to cracks by filling them with the recommended sealant described above until the inspection is done and permanent repairs are made.

During your regular inspections check areas that are cold and dark, such as under decks or behind heavy foliage. Dirt provides the perfect environment for mould and algae growth. The tiny roots that these organisms use to cling to your walls will cause your paint to deteriorate very quickly and can lead to plaster erosion if it is not regularly cleaned.

By regularly cleaning the exterior of your home, you will dramatically reduce the chances of your Insulclad Rendered Wall System becoming dirt stained. This will help to ensure that the task of repainting your home can be postponed for as long as possible. Trimming bushes to allow good air circulation, covering soil with mulch, bark or stone and keeping your gutters clean will all help to keep your maintenance to a minimum.

Ensure that all minimum ground clearances as set out in the technical literature are maintained at all times during the life of the system. Check that any dirt or unpaved ground (especially in garden beds) has not reduced these clearances over time.

Depending on the quality of the paint that has been used on your home, it will invariably require repainting after 5-10 years. Simply wash the wall surfaces with a non-solvent based chemical or detergent and rinse off. If areas of the property have been poorly maintained ensure any lichen, moss or loosely adhered paint is removed using a wire brush prior to any new paint being applied.

Go to www.novatexproducts.com.au to obtain all relevant information.

The Insulclad Rendered Wall System must have been installed by an appropriately trained installer in accordance with the Design & Installation Manual, Branz Appraisals, Construction Drawings PDF, Insulclad Instructions, Product Technical Data Sheets and Product Brochures.



COMBINING EXTERIOR CLADDING WITH SUPERIOR INSULATION