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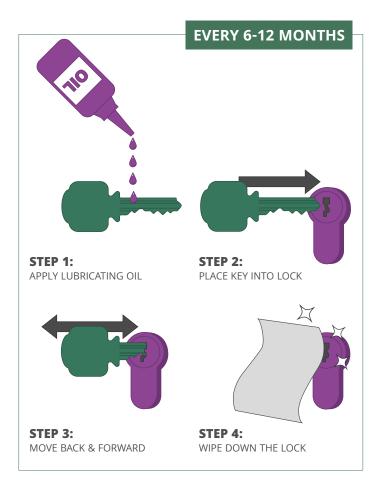
COMPOSITE DOORS

Composite doors are rightly praised for their ease of use and low maintenance. However, some basic housekeeping will enable your composite door to stay in excellent condition for many years to come.

LOCKS

On any door, the lock mechanism is one of the most vulnerable areas. If dirt is allowed to build up inside the barrel the result can be a jammed mechanism, leading to a call to the local locksmith. To avoid such difficulties, make sure that you keep the barrel in good working order by applying four drops of lubricating oil to each side of the key before placing it in the lock and moving it back and forward. Repeat this every 6–12 months.

Wipe down the lock and keeps with a damp cloth to remove any dirt and grit. Use a mild detergent. **DO NOT** use household chemical cleaners or abrasive cleaners, or any cleaners which may affect the corrosion resistance of the lock.





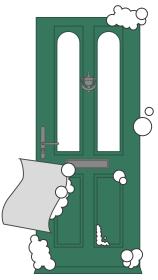




PANELS

To maintain the outer appearance of your door, clean it with warm soapy water and a soft cloth. Wipe it down, focusing on any dirt that may have built up. Do this with the door both open and closed to make sure you reach all the edges and get any hidden dirt. **DO NOT** use any abrasive cleaners or rough sponges to clean your door, as this can damage its finish. To deal with stubborn stains that soapy water can't manage, use a non-abrasive cleaner. Once you have washed the door, dry it with a clean and cloth to remove excess water.





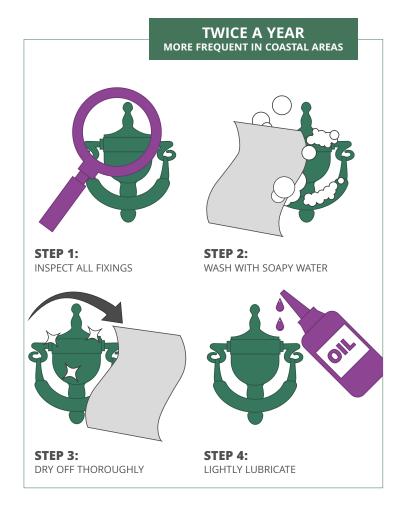
STEP 1:CLEAN WITH WARM
SOAPY WATER AND A SOFT
CLOTH.



STEP 2: MAKE SURE YOU REACH ALL THE EDGES AND GET ANY HIDDEN DIRT.



STEP 3: DRY IT WITH A CLEAN AND CLOTH TO REMOVE EXCESS WATER.



FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Periodically inspect all fixings are secure. Any loose fixings should be tightened by a suitably qualified person. For all other hardware, including letterplates, handles, knockers, and hinges and letterplates, wash with mild soapy water and a cloth, making sure to dry off thoroughly. Then lightly lubricate all moving parts using 3 in 1 oil a couple of times a year. If you live in a coastal area or by large industrial buildings, clean and lubricate more frequently to prevent corrosion occurring afterwards.

GLASS

You can use soapy water to clean the windows of your door. A microfibre cloth is ideal for this job, as it will avoid any unwanted streaks and lint on the glass. You can also use general glass cleaner to add a bit of extra sparkle.





uPVC WINDOWS & DOORS

uPVC is famous for its ease of maintenance and durability in the face of all the elements. Compared to timber, it barely needs a second glance. However, like all materials uPVC does attract dirt and debris and if not looked after can begin to suffer. Cleaning uPVC windows and doors from time to time works wonder for them, keeping them looking new and in good order.

A vital tip to remember before starting to clean uPVC windows and doors is to be careful about what you use. uPVC is shiny on the surface, but underneath it has a duller appearance. To maintain the shine **DO NOT** use abrasive cleaners, such as scouring pads or brushes, and harsh detergents, especially those that contain bleach. All of these could easily remove the uPVC's glossy top coat. For both windows and doors, good old-fashioned soap and water is enough to remove most dirt and stains. If you clean them regularly, soap and water is all you'll ever need.

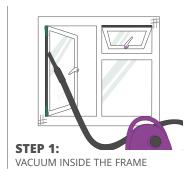
UPVC WINDOWS

Start by opening the window as wide as possible, then vacuum inside the frame and hinges using the narrow nozzle. If you notice mould, use a paper towel to wipe clean and remember to open your windows regularly to prevent further build-up.

Clean the frames with soapy water (a few drops of washing up liquid is fine) on a sponge and use a dry cloth to remove any residue. Persistent or hard-to-remove stains may require a homemade solution of one part vinegar with one-part hot water, and a measure of elbow grease! This natural remedy should shift stubborn stains easily.

The glass panels can also be cleaned using the soap-and-water formula, followed by a rub down with a soft dry cloth.





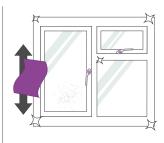




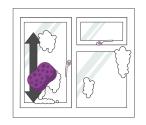
STEP 3:CLEAN WITH SOAPY WATER



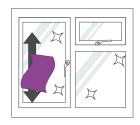
STEP 4:SOLUTION MAYBE REQUIRED



STEP 5:DRY WITH SOFT CLOTH



STEP 6: CLEAN WITH SOAPY WATER



STEP 7:
DRY WITH SOFT CLOTH

UPVC SLIDING SASH WINDOWS

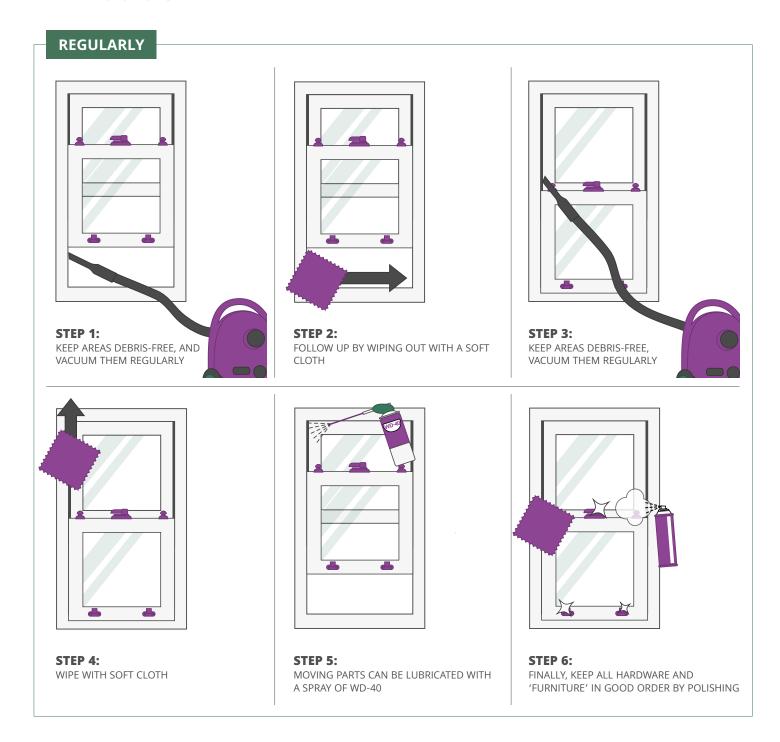
uPVC sliding sash windows can be cleaned and maintained in the same way as regular uPVC windows (see above) with one notable difference – the sliding sash mechanism also needs care and attention.

It is vital that the sliders are kept dirt and debris-free. Leaving windows open will attract dirt that gathers inside your frame and if it is there long enough it could affect the operation of the sashes and even damage them.

To keep these areas debris-free, vacuum them regularly and follow up by wiping out with a soft cloth.

Once you've cleared all the dirt and grime, moving parts can be lubricated with a spray of WD-40. However, **BE SPARING!** Too much oil can clog up these parts and can affect the smooth movement of your sliding sash window. A spray once a year is enough.

Finally, keep all the sliding sash window's hardware and 'furniture' in good order by polishing fasteners, handles, and hooks with a dry cloth. This makes them shine and helps to reduce wear.



UPVC DOORS

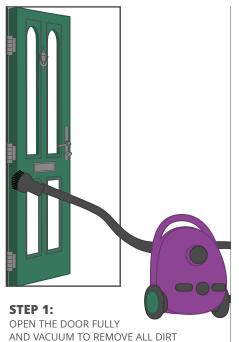
Open the door fully and use the brush end of your vacuum cleaner to remove all dirt, dust and debris from the door frame and hinges.

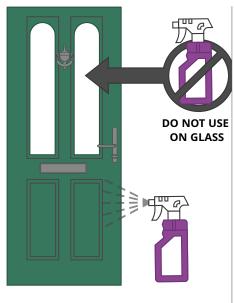
Add the vinegar and warm water mixture described above to an empty spray bottle, then spray the door panels thoroughly, avoiding the glass. Leave to soak for ten minutes before wiping down with a soft cloth. This is a

useful remedy if your doors haven't been cleaned for a while. After this, if you clean regularly you need only use warm water and soap.

As with uPVC doors, clean the glass with soap and water before wiping off with a dry cloth. Pay extra attention to any edges or corners if your window has leading, bevels or colour overlays.

REGULARLY

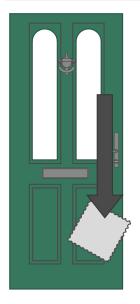




STEP 2:
USING VINEGAR AND WARM WATER MIXTURE
SPRAY DOOR PANELS



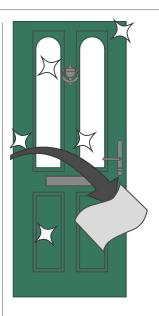
STEP 3:LEAVE TO SOAK FOR TEN MINUTES



STEP 4: WIPE DOWN WITH A SOFT CLOTH



STEP 5:AS WITH UPVC DOORS, CLEAN THE GLASS WITH SOAP AND WATER

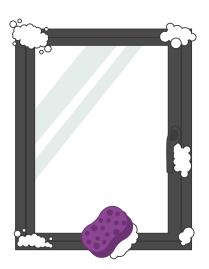


STEP 6:WIPE OFF WITH A DRY CLOTH, PAYING ATTENTION TO THE EDGES

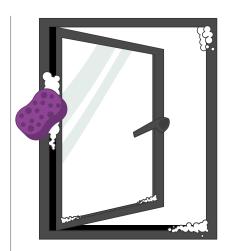


As a material, aluminium is light, strong, durable and does not rust, making it a popular choice for household windows and doors, particularly of the patio and bifold variety. Like uPVC, aluminium doesn't need much maintenance; however, regular care and attention will keep it in tip-top condition for many years ahead.

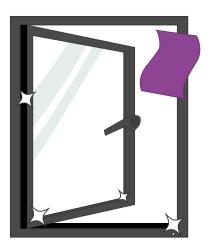
Depending on how much you use your aluminium windows or doors, and where they're located, the amount of maintenance varies. While aluminium doesn't rust, it can oxidise, especially when exposed to sea air. This doesn't affect its performance but it can look a little unsightly. So if you're living close to the sea, a bit of regular TLC on your doors and windows will not go amiss.



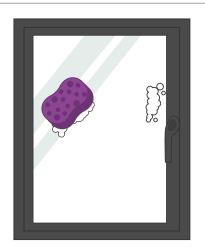
STEP 1:ALL YOU NEED IS WARM SOAPY WATER & A SOFT SPONGE OR CLOTH



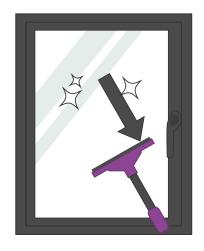
STEP 2:OPEN AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE GENTLY SCRUBBING



STEP 3:
WIPE EVERYTHING DOWN CAREFULLY WITH A
SOFT DRY CLOTH



STEP 4:TO CLEAN THE GLASS, USE A NON-ABRASIVE SPONGE & SOAPY WATER



STEP 5:USING A CLEAN SQUEEGEE, WIPE OFF THE CLEANING SOLUTION



NOTE:DEFINITELY NO BLEACH OR OTHER STRONG
CLEANING PRODUCTS

ALUMINIUM WINDOWS

Aluminium doesn't need specialist products to keep it clean and in good working order. In fact, looking after it is simplicity itself. All you need is warm soapy water and a soft sponge or cloth to remove any dirt or grime. Definitely **NO BLEACH** or other strong cleaning products. Open the window as wide as possible before gently scrubbing and wiping the frames. Make sure to keep the gaskets clean, as this will ensure they seal your windows well. Afterwards, wipe everything down carefully with a soft dry cloth.

Routine cleaning of windows is also important where your windows are on South or West facing elevations

or exposed to city centre grime, sea salt or other contaminants.

The painted finish on your windows protects the aluminium surface beneath. So you need to take care of it to prevent oxidisation.

To clean the glass, again use soap and water, and a non-abrasive sponge. Try not to create too many soap suds, as these may leave marks when drying. Then, using a clean squeegee, wipe off the cleaning solution from top to bottom.

ALUMINIUM PATIO & BIFOLD DOORS

Aluminium patio and bifold doors will last for many years if looked after carefully. They don't need much maintenance but given that they have moving parts and large areas of glass, it's worth concentrating on these aspects when giving your patio/bifold doors a regular clean.

As with aluminium front and rear doors, clean patio/ bifold doors with a gentle mixture of soap and water and a non-abrasive cloth. Heavy duty and bleach-based cleaning products must be avoided. A squeegee or a microfibre cloth is the best way of cleaning larger areas of glass that might otherwise show up streaks from soap suds.

When cleaning the glass, make sure the soap-and-water solution doesn't run into the frames too much. Don't forget to remove all jewellery, rings, and watches as they can easily leave scratches on the glass. This also goes for cleaning the glazing in windows and doors.

The key elements when it comes to the cleaning and maintenance of patio/bifold doors are the tracks and seals at the bottom of the doors. These must be kept clean and free from stones, grit, gravel and debris of any sort. Such objects can interfere with the smooth running of the doors and potentially cause damage.

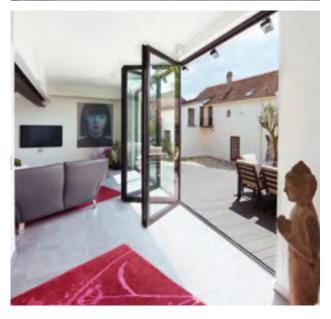
The best way to clear the tracks of any grit, stones and debris is to use a vacuum cleaner nozzle. Simply run it along the tracks thoroughly to collect debris that has gathered inside, before cleaning with a soft cloth. Gently run across the gasket seals with a light, soapy solution and non-abrasive cloth. Avoid using solvent-based cleaning products on the seals. It is also recommended that silicone spray is applied to the seals annually.

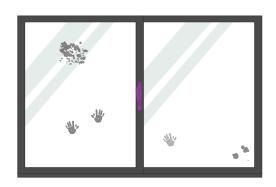
After this, it's worth lubricating the tracks and mechanisms with a silicon spray, particularly where the wheel and guide disks connect with the tracks. This will ensure the smooth running of the door.

You can also use the silicon spray to gently lubricate the patio/bifold door locks, ensuring that the mechanism is dust-free and not prone to sticking. Lightly spray both lock and key, then insert and remove the key a few times so that the silicon penetrates deeply inside the lock.

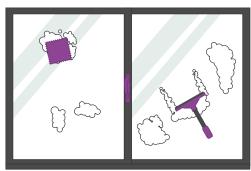








STEP 1:



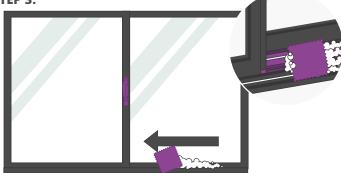


REMOVE

CLEAN WITH A GENTLE MIXTURE OF SOAP AND WATER AND A NON-ABRASIVE CLOTH



STEP 3:



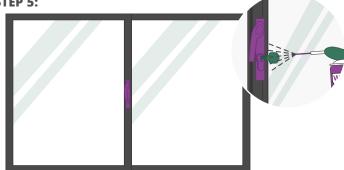
GENTLY RUN ACROSS THE GASKET SEALS WITH A LIGHT, SOAPY SOLUTION AND NON-ABRASIVE CLOTH



AFTER THIS, IT'S WORTH LUBRICATING THE TRACKS AND MECHANISMS WITH A SILICON SPRAY

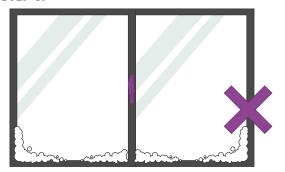
CLEAR THE TRACKS OF ANY GRIT, STONES AND

STEP 5:



USE THE SILICON SPRAY TO GENTLY LUBRICATE THE DOOR LOCKS, ENSURING THAT THE MECHANISM IS DUST-FREE

STEP 6:



AVOID USING SOLVENT-BASED CLEANING PRODUCTS ON THE SEALS. WE RECOMMEND THAT SILICONE SPRAY IS APPLIED TO THE SEALS ANNUALLY.

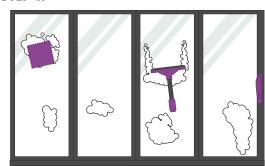
AVOID



HEAVY DUTY & BLEACH BASED PRODUCTS



STEP 1:



REMOVE



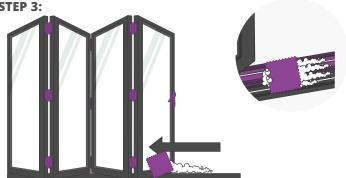




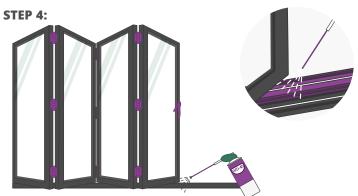
CLEAN WITH A GENTLE MIXTURE OF SOAP AND WATER AND A NON-ABRASIVE CLOTH



STEP 3:



GENTLY RUN ACROSS THE GASKET SEALS WITH A LIGHT, SOAPY SOLUTION AND NON-ABRASIVE CLOTH



AFTER THIS, IT'S WORTH LUBRICATING THE TRACKS AND MECHANISMS WITH A SILICON SPRAY

STEP 5:



USE THE SILICON SPRAY TO GENTLY LUBRICATE THE DOOR LOCKS, ENSURING THAT THE MECHANISM IS DUST-FREE

STEP 6:



AVOID USING SOLVENT-BASED CLEANING PRODUCTS ON THE SEALS. WE RECOMMEND THAT SILICONE SPRAY IS APPLIED TO THE SEALS ANNUALLY.



HEAVY DUTY & BLEACH BASED PRODUCTS





GLASS CONSERVATORY ROOFS

At Emerald Glass we can supply conservatory glass roofs with self-cleaning glazed units. These use the sun's rays to burn off any organic mess such as fingerprints and dust, your new roof will always stay looking just as good as the day it was first installed.

However, some maintenance is required if these units are to continue to work to an optimal level.

If you have self-cleaning units fitted, it's important to remember **NOT** to clean them during the first week after installation. This allows any sealants to fully set. Also during this week, the self-cleaning property of your roof glass will be progressively activated, triggered by exposure to UV light. The time it takes tends to vary depending on the season, but the average is about a week.

After this, it is possible to give the glass an occasional wipe over. You will need to use a lint-free cloth, chamois leather or a soft, non-abrasive sponge. It is vital that whatever cloth you use, it MUST be clean. A dirty cloth might transfer particles on to the glass which could then scratch or damage the coating.

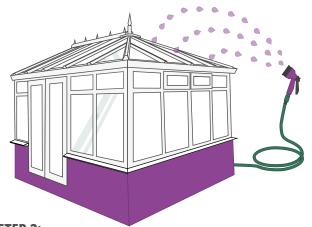
To clean, just use warm, clean water and a mild detergent. **DO NOT** use heavy-duty cleaners, or those that are bleach-based. Extended dry periods can cause a build-up of contaminants on the coated surface. If this is the case, gently hose down the glass (don't pressure wash!) and let it dry naturally. Spraying should be carried out during the coolest part of the day and not in direct sunlight.





STEP 1:

GIVE THE GLASS AN OCCASIONAL WIPE OVER. YOU WILL NEED TO USE A LINT-FREE CLOTH, CHAMOIS LEATHER OR A SOFT, NON-ABRASIVE SPONGE



STEP 2:

TO CLEAN, JUST USE WARM, CLEAN WATER AND A MILD DETERGENT. GENTLY HOSE DOWN THE GLASS (DON'T PRESSURE WASH!) AND LET IT DRY NATURALLY.



REMOVING FALLEN LEAVES, MOSS AND OTHER DEBRIS WILL PREVENT BLOCKAGES THAT COULD RESULT IN LEAKS IN YOUR ROOF CAUSING DAMPNESS AND MOULD.



THE SAFEST WAY OF CLEANING IT IS BY USING A TELESCOPIC BRUSH AND WARM, SOAPY WATER.



AFTER YOU'VE GIVEN IT A SCRUBBING, RINSE USING A GARDEN HOSE.



IT IS WORTH INVESTING IN AN ANTI-FUNGAL SOLUTION TO THEN TREAT THE CONSERVATORY ROOF

TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS

Modern tiled conservatory roofs are thermally efficient and don't need much in terms of maintenance. However, a little TLC now and again will help to keep your roof in good order.

One of the simplest and best ways of keeping your conservatory roof in tip-top condition is to regularly clean your gutters. Removing fallen leaves, moss and other debris will prevent blockages that could result in leaks in your roof, causing dampness and mould.

You will need to use a ladder to reach gutters; if this is a problem it is worth calling in a specialist professional conservatory cleaner. Using a small trowel, remove leaves, twigs and other debris before using a hose to remove any remaining bits, and to check for proper drainage.

Over time, all solid conservatory roofs are prone to the build-up of moss, algae and lichen. As well as looking unsightly, such growth can potentially cause damage to your tiles. Again, you can use a ladder to reach the roof but **DO NOT** step on to it. It isn't designed to be load-bearing.

The safest way of cleaning it is by using a telescopic brush and warm, soapy water. After you've given it a scrubbing, rinse using a garden hose. It is worth investing in an anti-fungal solution to then treat the conservatory roof, preventing any future moss and lichen growth.

Emerald Windows also supplies the well-known Velux brand of windows that can be fitted into our conservatory roofs. Like all windows, these will become grimy if not cleaned regularly. It's important to keep your air filter clean by removing it on a regular basis and cleaning it with regular household cleaners.

Clean water, a small amount of detergent and a sponge are all you need to clean the Velux's glass. Again, avoid heavyduty and abrasive cleaners and use sponges or soft cloths to clean and dry off. Once a year, clean and lubricate your window's fittings and hinges.

FASCIAS & SOFFITS

Fascias, soffits and other roofline products are often forgotten. They aren't the most glamorous aspect of the home but do need maintenance to keep them in good condition. For reference, the fascia is located underneath the guttering and is the visible, horizontal component that helps protect your home from the weather. The soffit is positioned beneath the rafter tails and offers additional weather protection.

Our fascias and soffits are made from uPVC, which does make things a whole lot easier in terms of cleaning, as uPVC is relatively maintenance-free, especially when compared to timber.

Unless you live in a bungalow or another type of low-rise dwelling, access to fascias, soffits and guttering might be challenging. You'll need a set of extendable ladders and a head for heights – if you don't have either or both, it's seriously worth considering employing a professional cleaning firm to undertake this potentially hazardous work.

Or you could use a pressure washer! This is probably the best way of tackling dirt and stains on your fascias and soffits, and of course you can also clean them from the ground. To clean these, first soak the area with clean water to rinse off loose debris. Use a low pressure on the washer to prevent spraying dirt into the soffit vents.

After rinsing, add detergent to the washer and repeat using a low-pressure nozzle.

Now change the washer's nozzle to high pressure. It's a good idea to run it briefly to get rid of any detergent residue in the nozzle. Then spray the fascia and soffit, moving steadily in a horizontal direction. The force of the water should dislodge any remaining dirt and detergent. A final rinse on a low-pressure setting will leave your roof trim sparkling.

If you feel capable of cleaning fascias, soffits and guttering without a pressure washer, you won't need much more than an extendable ladder, a sponge and a bucket of water with detergent mixed in. You could add a couple of teaspoons of bleach to kill off any mildew.

Scrub along the soffit and fascia as far as you can reach, paying attention to any detailed or textured areas that trap dirt.







STEP 3:



GUTTERING

As with fascias and soffits, the best and safest way to keep guttering clean and free of leaves and other debris is to use a pressure washer. Gutter-cleaning attachments can be purchased for most brands of pressure washer and if you don't own one a local tool-hire company will certainly lease you one for a day – more than enough time to do all your gutters.

If you feel capable of getting up a ladder, take an empty bucket and using a trowel scoop out as much of the muck and debris as possible. Once this is done, go back down the ladder and return with a garden hose and a wire brush. Again, work your way around the guttering, flushing away any remaining debris and scrubbing off stubborn grime.

Finally, check there are no blockages in the drainpipes by inserting the hose down the pipe and dislodging anything that might be stuck in there. When the gutters are clean, consider buying leaf guards for the drain outlets to prevent leaves causing blockages. Also, long strands of bristles, known as 'gutter hedgehogs', can be purchased – these are highly effective against falling leaves blocking gutters.





THE BEST AND SAFEST WAY TO KEEP GUTTERING CLEAN AND FREE OF LEAVES AND OTHER DEBRIS IS TO USE A PRESSURE WASHER. IF YOU FEEL CAPABLE OF GETTING UP A LADDER, TAKE AN EMPTY BUCKET AND USING A TROWEL SCOOP OUT AS MUCH OF THE MUCK AND DEBRIS AS POSSIBLE.

GARAGE DOORS

Emerald Windows and Doors are pleased to supply state-of-the-art Secureroll garage doors. These sectional aluminium doors open vertically upwards, maximizing the space around the door and allowing you to park your vehicle right up against it.

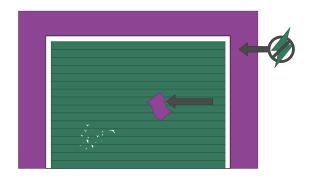
These doors are low maintenance. However, regular checks are needed to make sure the door is working properly. Technical malfunctions should ideally be dealt with by an expert. If your door isn't opening or closing as it should, contact us at www.emeraldupvcwindows.com/ contact-us or call us on 01793 700 142 or 0800 612 4154.

To keep the door clean and free of dirt build-up, turn off the power to the door before wiping down the aluminium slats with a damp cloth and a mild detergent to remove any excess dirt/grime. This also reduces the risk of the surface being damaged.

Make sure no debris has collected in the guides, i.e.stones, sticks, paper etc. Marks on the paint finish can be cleaned with car polish, and any chips in the paintwork should be touched up to prevent oxidisation of the metal.

If you live by the sea or close to a coastal area, make sure you give your garage door a clean as often as you can.

Finally, check that the door is operating smoothly and look out for signs of damage, wear or faults. If any defects are found, seek expert advice.



TO KEEP THE DOOR CLEAN AND FREE OF DIRT BUILD-UP, TURN OFF THE POWER TO THE DOOR BEFORE WIPING DOWN THE ALUMINIUM SLATS WITH A DAMP CLOTH AND A MILD DETERGENT TO REMOVE ANY EXCESS DIRT/GRIME.



MAKE SURE NO DEBRIS HAS COLLECTED IN THE GUIDES, I.E.STONES, STICKS, PAPER ETC. MARKS ON THE PAINT FINISH CAN BE CLEANED WITH CAR POLISH





SHUTTERS

At Emerald Windows and Doors we provide bespoke, custom-made Plantation shutters that suit homes of all descriptions. As well as being easy to use they are also simple to maintain. Our shutters can be made in either hardwood or faux wood (created from composite materials with an aluminium core) and while basic maintenance is the same, there are differences in approach between the two.

These shutters are far easier to maintain than metal blinds or curtains. That said, they should be cleaned regularly to avoid build-up of dust, dirt and grime.

To begin, take a dry dusting cloth or an extendable feather duster and wipe each slat one by one, and on both sides. You can also vacuum dust off your shutters for a good deep clean but remember to use the soft brush nozzle and keep the suction level low, if your vacuum cleaner has this function.

To clean heavier stains – splashes from a kitchen sink, or fingerprints – you can wipe down your shutters with a soft cloth and a solution of warm water and mild detergent. **Faux-wooden shutters** are waterproof and will not need drying off. However, if you have **wooden shutters** you will need to immediately wipe off any surface water with a dry cloth to prevent moisture penetrating the wood.

A uPVC cleaner is also recommended for use on faux-wood shutters. Spray the cleaner onto a lint free non-coloured cloth and simply wipe over the slats and the frame. Using a fresh damp clean non-coloured cloth wipe away the residue and then dry thoroughly with a clean, soft towel to avoid marks/spotting.

With both products, do not force the shutter slats in the opposite direction to open them fully as this will break the mechanism.



STEP 1:

TO BEGIN, TAKE A DRY DUSTING CLOTH OR AN EXTENDABLE FEATHER DUSTER AND WIPE EACH SLAT ONE BY ONE, AND ON BOTH SIDES.



STEP 2:

YOU CAN ALSO VACUUM DUST OFF YOUR SHUTTERS FOR A GOOD DEEP CLEAN BUT REMEMBER TO USE THE SOFT BRUSH NOZZLE



STEP 3:

TO CLEAN HEAVIER STAINS WIPE DOWN YOUR SHUTTERS WITH A SOFT CLOTH AND A SOLUTION OF WARM WATER AND MILD DETERGENT.



STEP 4:

USING A FRESH DAMP CLEAN NON-COLOURED CLOTH WIPE AWAY THE RESIDUE AND THEN DRY THOROUGHLY WITH A CLEAN, SOFT TOWEL TO AVOID MARKS/SPOTTING.



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