

## Coastal Environment Care & Maintenance Instructions

### Purpose

Proper maintenance is essential to preserve the performance, appearance, and warranty of INICIO Aluminum windows and doors installed in coastal or salt-air environments. “Coastal environments” are defined as locations within three (3) miles of saltwater or brackish shoreline.

### 1. Cleaning Frequency

- Every 3 months minimum — rinse all exposed aluminum, glass, and hardware surfaces with fresh water and a mild, non-abrasive detergent.
- Monthly cleaning is recommended for direct oceanfront or high-salt spray locations.
- After rinsing, dry completely with a soft, lint-free cloth.
- Increase frequency during dry, windy, or storm seasons when salt buildup occurs faster.

### 2. Cleaning Method

- Use fresh tap water (not reclaimed or softened) and a mild soap such as dish detergent diluted in water.
- Apply with a soft sponge or microfiber cloth—never abrasive pads, steel wool, or solvents.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove all detergent and contaminants.
- Avoid high-pressure washing, which can damage seals and finishes.
- For anodized finishes, ensure cleaning cloths are free from grit to prevent scratching.

### 3. Hardware and Operating Components

- Every 3–6 months, clean exposed hinges, rollers, and handles with mild soap and water.
- Rinse, dry, and apply a light coat of silicone-based lubricant or corrosion-resistant oil to all moving parts.
- For stainless or coated hardware, remove surface deposits or discoloration promptly to prevent pitting.
- Do not use petroleum-based lubricants or waxes.

### 4. Drainage & Weep Holes

- Inspect all weep holes and sill channels quarterly.
- Clear obstructions such as sand, salt, or insect debris to ensure proper drainage.
- Clogged weep systems can cause standing water and void weather-resistance coverage.

### 5. Finish Protection

- Touch up chips or scratches immediately using manufacturer-approved paint or anodizing repair materials.
- Avoid exposure to harsh chemicals (bleach, muriatic acid, pressure-washing detergents, masonry cleaners).
- Do not attach tape, adhesives, or metal signage to aluminum surfaces.

## **Coastal Environment Care & Maintenance Instructions (Cont.)**

### **6. Glass & Seals**

- Clean glass with mild glass cleaner or water and vinegar solution; avoid ammonia-based cleaners on coated glass.
- Inspect glazing seals annually; replace if cracked, loose, or damaged.
- Prevent standing water contact with glazing beads for extended periods.

### **7. Maintenance Log (Required for Warranty)**

- Keep a Coastal Maintenance Log recording each cleaning event:
- Date and location cleaned
- Products used
- Name/signature of person performing cleaning
- This log must be retained and provided upon any warranty claim for products installed within three (3) miles of a saltwater shoreline.

### **8. Warranty Impact**

- Failure to comply with this maintenance schedule may result in premature corrosion, finish degradation, or hardware failure not covered under warranty.
- Proper care ensures INICIO Aluminum products deliver long-term performance even in the most demanding coastal environments.