

ALCUF CARE



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LIFE CYCLE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

This document describes how to maintain the beauty and service of your AlcuF System for many years to come.



Alcuf Care

LIFE CYCLE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

TAKING CARE OF YOUR ALCUF INVESTMENT

There are a number of design points that must be considered to improve usage and maintenance of any Alcuf Product.

Water and Earth

The design of your Alcuf System has carefully been thought out in order to avoid any significant collection of moisture that would cause damage. If water collects in the framework of any product outdoors, it might freeze causing damage. The power of water turning to ice (expansion) can break a very thick walled pipe. To avoid this, the majority of shapes used in Alcuf Systems are not hollow. In addition, the connection methods of these solid shapes are done in such a way as to allow for proper drainage flow. It is very important to ensure that nothing blocks this drainage. One such hazard is water collecting and sitting with dirt which can harden and block drainage ports. For example, a fence should maintain several inches under the infill between posts, in order to allow for slight ground movement during the winter, but also for the care and trimming of grass under the bottom rails, and also to avoid the infill sitting on the ground, filling with earth and absorbing water.. If you are building a garden near your fence, take care not to have earth up against the fence. A fence can be engineered to retain earth, but a standard fence is not designed for the load and drainage required and will fail every time.

Things you can do yourself...

In summary: good drainage and keeping your system clear of earth and other debris are the most critical elements that you can control to give your Alcuf System the maximum service life and performance.

- An annual spray washing is a great idea.
- Inspecting your system to see that all connections are solid and fit. Any surfaces should be clean and free of dirt.

Things you might want help with ...

Your Alcuf Authorized Dealer is a reliable and trustworthy operator. They are available for simple inspections annually or whatever duration is practical. They will do this for a reasonable fee. Depending on what your timing requirements are, travel distance, etc. their fee will vary.

FENCING: For fencing, unless you have gates, or complicated landscaping with grade changes close to the fence (ie retaining walls), there is generally no need for any dealer inspections or assistance. Just keeping it clean is sufficient. The only thing that should be of concern is if a post heaves, then you might want to have your dealer check it out to assess why it heaved, and if the heaving has stopped, or if it will likely reoccur. Ground is unpredictable and while it would be very rare to see an Alcuf post sink because of our base design, it could happen that something existed under the ground that was not visible during installation, and was shifted with ground freezing and thawing, causing a post to move upward or tilt. If this happens, it often

does not reoccur, and a simple adjustment resolves the issue. Alcuf Systems are adjustable by design. This is something you might want to have your dealer inspect and advise you on.



The other situation where you need to bring in the dealer, is if you are removing part of the fence, and reinstalling it. In our experience unauthorized contractors simply do not have the experience nor do they take the care to carry out the job properly. Furthermore, use of an unauthorized dealer will cause your warranty to be void, so please contact your dealer for renovations.

BALCONY/RAILINGS: For Balconies and/or Railings, spray washing is probably the most important maintenance that can be done. Especially the deck surfaces. Balcony floors have been known to last for decades when kept clean. We have seen floors mold and even crack when seriously abused, ie placement of earth on a balcony for a garden. This will cause the floors protective skin to eventually crack, and then eventually fragment as moisture is let in and sustained by earth or large deposits of dirt. Keeping your primary wear components clean goes a very long way to preserving your Balcony and avoiding costly maintenance for many decades.



Often our Balcony Systems are used by Condominium Corporations. They are very focused on the Total Life Cycle Cost, and future costs including any maintenance and or repairs. Normal Condominium reserve fund studies are for the next 30 years. In this case, a contracted and scheduled maintenance plan for varying intervals, based on the product and implementation, is often the least expensive money spent after the initial investment. This approach can be well worth it if maintenance costs are avoided resulting from unchecked and escalating problems. Typical inspection cycles are; Annual (mandatory one year after installation – included in your initial price), after that Bi-Annual (for high traffic sites), or 5 Years (for normal traffic/residential sites), and a 10 Year major inspection interval which should be mandatory to insure ongoing safety and service for any Balcony.

Warranties have been unintentionally voided because an end user uses an unauthorized contractor or component for maintenance, revision or repair. Scheduled inspections by your Alcuf dealer can avoid this.

In our experience, if a 2-5 year dealer inspection was implemented, and an annual power spray cleaning was employed, an Alcuf Balcony System should last 30 years without any additional maintenance cost. At the time of this writing, our first Balcony Systems have lasted 33+ years without any deterioration. Most of these have not had an annual cleaning plan, but have nevertheless been looked after by their owners.

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ALCUF INTERNATIONAL INC., CANADA

Alcuf is a 100% Canadian owned company with all of its extrusions, fasteners, decking, wood and/or glass components manufactured in Canada. Any fabrication or integration of components is also done in Canada, using a Canadian workforce. Alcuf produces high quality aluminum products that are proven to be extraordinary in terms of design, performance, and value. Alcuf engineered systems deliver life cycles unattainable from traditional solutions.

Alcuf International Inc. provides best value solutions to the end user via Authorized Dealers. We are honest brokers and have the end users best interests at heart. This is what makes us unique in our field.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about anything contained in this document or anything related to our company, please contact us at info@alcuf.com.

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