

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF OBJECTS BUILT WITH SANDWICH PANELS**PRODUCED BY EUROPANELS**

Europanel is not responsible for the consequences of failure to comply with the recommendations below.

1. Periodic inspections

It is recommended to inspect partitions made of Europanels sandwich panels at least twice a year, i.e. before the autumn (after summer) and spring (after winter) periods. The following should be checked: the condition of coatings and cladding surfaces, fasteners, flashings and other elements constituting the entirety of the enclosed partition. During the inspection, possible mechanical damage should be checked and qualified for cleaning or maintenance (see relevant points 3 and 4 below). An example of qualification for cleaning are, for example, bird droppings on the linings, and for example, mechanical damage of protective coatings intended for touch-up repair is eligible for maintenance. Corroded fasteners (screws) and flashings should be replaced with new ones. During the periodic inspection, all dirt and foreign bodies applied between inspections, such as branches, leaves, nut shells (often lying in gutters, drains) should also be removed. They can not only cause difficult drainage of water, but also accelerate corrosion phenomena caused by their biological decomposition on steel surfaces. In the case of products for thermal insulation of flat roofs (ThermaBitum, ThermaMambrane systems), the waterproofing surfaces are checked, especially in terms of tightness of joints and welded joints, as well as the condition and amount of sprinkling (ThermaBitum) and the patency of water drainage systems (drains, gutters).

2. Avoid while storing sandwich panels

Due to possible contact and electrochemical corrosion, the steel cladding of sandwich panels can't be permanently moist, nor come into contact with materials of higher electrochemical potential under wet conditions. In case of prolonged storage in conditions of possible water vapor condensation on the cladding surfaces, open the packages, remove the protective foil from the boards and ensure the condensate evaporation. Also, the storage of panels in conditions of increased temperature (over +20 C), and of UV radiation, regardless of the temperature, requires the removal of the protective film from the facings before assembly (even from the panels packed in the packages). Removal of the protective foil is possible only at temperatures above +5 ° C. In case of difficulties with removing the foil, wait until the high temperature conditions are met, or prepare them in a safe manner. Always after removing the foil from the facings, check that it has not left a layer of glue on the facings. If any glue is found, it should be removed immediately with the use of a specialist Clean fluid from Retech (available at Europanels).

3. Periodic cleaning of steel cladding surfaces

Panels installed as an external partition are subject to environmental conditions (precipitation) from the outside, which in the vast majority of cases are sufficient to clean the cladding surfaces. If despite this rainfall, or if its intensity is insufficient and there are dirt on the cladding, it should be removed by washing. However, for this operation, it is recommended to use mild detergents with a neutral pH (acceptable pH range of the solution: 5.5-8.5). It is not recommended to scrub the cladding, but rather washing it with a pressure jet of water. However, in the case of high pressure equipment, a distance of at least 30 cm should be maintained between the nozzle and the lining. The water pressure stream must not be directed at the panels' joint! For the panels with the hidden joint, direct the water flow in the direction corresponding to the shape of the panel's nose. After cleaning, the facings must be able to evaporate water and condensate - this applies to both external and internal surfaces. If evaporation is not possible, stop jet cleaning of the linings with water, replace it with spot cleaning using a detergent solution, and in case of stronger contamination with Retch Clean and a cotton cloth.

4. Periodic maintenance of the panels' surfaces

If the continuity of the protective coatings is slightly disturbed, i.e. there are scratches palpable with the palm of your hand, but the scratch ends on the base layer and does not reach the steel, you can leave it at this stage without interfering with it or repair it with a touch-up paint in the color of the facing for aesthetic reasons. However, if the scratch reaches the steel sheet, it is absolutely necessary to perform local protection with touch-up paints. For the standard SP25 polyester coating, these are generally available polyester varnishes for galvanized surfaces, used in industry (mainly automotive). Oven, powder or cellulose paints are not used. The best results are achieved by applying the touch-up with a sharp-bristled brush only in the groove of the scratch, and not spreading it beyond its line. Larger surfaces should be prepared for hydrodynamic painting, which is carried out only in appropriate environmental conditions (no wind, rainfall, temperature 10-20 C, humidity 50-60%). On the edges of factory cut claddings, it is possible and acceptable to have minor corrosion points limited only to this edge. The applied zinc coating protects the cladding against corrosion. This process consists in the formation of a passivation layer that stops further corrosion processes. While this is a natural process, no interference is required. In cases of enlargement of the corrosive area (most often it occurs as a result of cutting outside the factory with the use of inappropriate methods and tools), the repair should be carried out by removing the corrosion center (mechanically by grinding or sandblasting). The surface prepared in this way should be primed and chemically protected with an anti-corrosive primer and finally covered with a protective coating in the color of the cladding.