

SHAPES

UNLIMITED

ALUMINUM BUILDING PRODUCTS



Aluminum Fencing Care and Maintenance

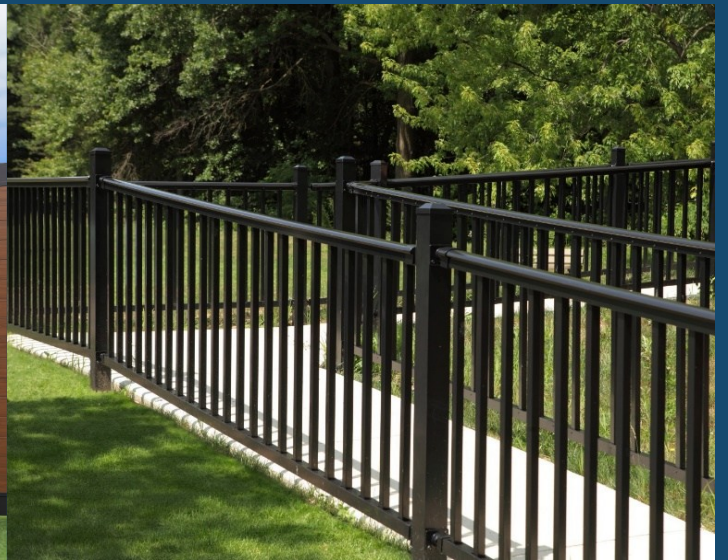


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CEO/ PRESIDENT STATEMENT

Vision: We are the regional market leader in differentiated aluminum products and service solutions to the building products industry.

Mission: We are consistently challenging the status quo to develop value-added products and business solutions to meet our customers' evolving needs.

Values: With an empowered organization, using our values system to make our company and each team member successful as we strive toward our vision:

As aligned with our SHAPES Unlimited Values, "Our purpose is to build an exceptional and enduring business that contributes to elevating the building industry and its workforce through people-focused investments and business principles". To do so, the collaboration of all team members taking the needed ownership in ensuring that our quality is the benchmark for our industry is the objective.



Doug Rende
CEO and President | SHAPES Unlimited, Inc.

CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Aluminum Fencing Overview

Aluminum fences for residential, commercial, and industrial applications are popular due to their durability, low maintenance, and aesthetic appeal. Aluminum fences do not rust, warp, or require frequent painting. To ensure longevity and maintain appearance, aluminum fences require care and maintenance. SHAPES White Paper outlines best practices for maintaining aluminum fences, including cleaning, inspecting damage, and addressing common issues.

Why Aluminum Fencing?

Durability: Aluminum doesn't rust like steel or iron, making it an ideal material for fencing. It withstands weather conditions well, including rain, snow, and sun.

Low Maintenance: Does not require staining or painting, like wood does. Powder coating ensures a long-lasting finish.

Design Versatility: Various styles, designs and colors will complement any architecture for property security, pool enclosures, and decoration for curb appeal.

Sustainability: Aluminum is recyclable, and many manufacturers utilize recycled materials in their fencing.

SHAPES Routine Maintenance

Regular cleaning, once or twice a year to remove dirt and debris, will benefit your aluminum fencing even though it is low maintenance.

Method:

- **Water and mild detergents:** using a garden hose rinse off loose dirt and debris. Tougher grime, mix mild detergent and water and wash with a soft cloth or sponge (*Avoid power washing equipment due to the forceful pressure exerted*) Avoid abrasive materials and harsh chemicals, this can damage the powder-coating and reduce the fence's lifespan.
- **Rinse Thoroughly:** after cleaning rinse the fence with clean water from a garden hose to remove soap residue which will prevent attracting dirt.

SHAPES Inspection & Repairs

Along with bi-yearly cleaning, fence inspections should follow the same care. Looking for any signs of damage or wear will ensure longevity including structural integrity and appearance.

Spring and Summer:

- Check for any damage caused by winter weather. Touch up any scratches or chips. Powder-coating is the best choice, but is not practical for most homeowners, and thus recommend an epoxy specifically made for metal. As brand availability is sometimes limited per area, consulting with your local paint supplier is recommended.

Fall and Winter: Before colder weather remove fence-line debris, like leaves and branches that can cause damage in freeze-thaw cycles.

- Check for any loose screws and fasteners and tighten as necessary.
- Scratches and chips can be touched up with appropriate powder-coat touch up paint. Powder-coating is the best choice, but is not practical for most homeowners, and thus recommend an epoxy specifically made for metal. As brand availability is sometimes limited per area, consulting with your local paint supplier is recommended.
- Posts and panels that are loose may need a professional to realign and secure.

Preventing Damage

- Keep all vegetation like leaves, vines, bushes away from fence line. These can scratch the coating and put pressure on the fence and cause damage like bowing.
- Be cautious when using lawn mowers and edge-trimmers along fence lines to prevent damage.
- SNOW AND ICE will accumulate along fence lines, avoid snowplowing and piling snow around perimeter of fence, the weight can cause bowing and damage. Best to use a broom instead of a shovel to avoid scratches. Always inspect in the spring when the snow melts.

Minor Repairs

- Minor scratches and chips should be cleaned first with mild detergent and a soft cloth or sponge, dried and apply touch-up paint where needed. Powder-coating is the best choice, but is not practical for most homeowners, and thus recommend an epoxy specifically made for metal. As brand availability is sometimes limited per area, consulting with your local paint supplier is recommended.
- Loose fence panels can be tightened with appropriate fasteners.

Major Repairs

- If fence panels have shifted it may require a professional to realign and re-anchor the posts.
- Fence panels that are broken or bent it is also advisable to contact a professional to repair and or replace.

Conclusion

Aluminum fences offer a long-lasting, attractive, and low-maintenance solution for various fencing needs. By following the care and maintenance guidelines outlined in SHAPES White Paper, you can ensure that your aluminum fence remains in excellent condition for years to come. Regular cleaning, inspections, and timely repairs will preserve both the functionality and appearance of your fence, providing lasting value and peace of mind.