

## **POLLUTION OF CLADDING**

Façade cladding with sheet material does not mean that you are relieved of cleaning and maintenance work. Although most types of façade panels are virtually maintenance-free but, just like window glass, it is recommended to regularly clean the façade cladding also.

All facades, regardless of the material used, require regular maintenance. In this way unnecessary and high costs are avoided in the long term. The building also retains its attractive appearance.

If the contamination is allowed to act on the materials for too long, it is possible that it has penetrated so deep into the pores of the material that cleaning can hardly be done in a simple manner.

### **Pollution**

Contamination occurring in the air and rain water (dust, soot, oils, greasy substances, etc.), deposits on the facade surface just like on the window glass. We regularly clean the windows, but often neglect the influence of the same pollution on the existing cladding.

The degree and speed with which the façade panel materials contaminate is strongly dependent on their surface, chemical stability, hardness, porosity, whether or not they can be electrostatically charged, the environment of the building, etc. and therefore varies per material or type.

### **Algae become rampant and moss formation**

Alga deposit and moss formation is usually a result of too high humidity, due to no or insufficient ventilation behind the cladding. That is why it is important to check the façade structure for the available ventilation options upon completion.

- Opening on the base of the facade surface, closed with a ventilation profile.
- Opening at the top of the facade surface, roof trim not tight against the facade cladding!
- A vertically continuous air cavity behind the facade cladding of at least 20 mm over the entire height of the facade.

### **Striping**

Striping on the facade cladding is caused by a centered water flow as a result of detailing (end of the water sill), screw heads or other protruding elements in the facade surface. These concentrate the (rain)waterflow and this concentrated waterflows contains environmental dirt, deposited on the façade surface, windows and sills, which is also carried and ultimately, as a result of the concentration, show a contamination line on the façade surface.

This can be prevented by proper detailing and correct implementation.

The degree and frequency of maintenance therefore influences the degree of contamination on the cladding. So include the cleaning of the cladding in your “window cleaning program”!



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