

## Cleaning of coated surfaces in ROMA rapid construction insulation panels

All coatings used by ROMA are fundamentally vapor-permeable. This means that, regardless of the durability of the coating material, corrosion occurs on the substrate material over a period that cannot be precisely defined beforehand, depending on the type of coating. In principle, the thinner the coating, the earlier this effect may occur. The coating system itself also has an additional influence on the potential failure of the coating.

Regarding the use of cleaning agents, strict criteria have been set internally by the supplier. These stipulate that for all types of coatings, the pH values of the cleaning agents must be between **pH 5 and pH 9** (EN 10169).

Cleaning agents must be used in commercially available dilution and must not be used as concentrates under any circumstances. Moreover, the use of **cleaning agents containing chlorine** is prohibited. Surface cleaning must be carried out in such a way that no residues remain on the coating material. Cleaning agents must not be allowed to dry. Rinse thoroughly with plenty of clear water after cleaning. Surfaces must be able to dry daily without fail.

Caution is especially warranted when using high-pressure cleaners and steam cleaners. If steam cleaners are used, temperatures must not exceed **50°C**. The pressure of high-pressure cleaners must not exceed **130 bar**. The distance to the panel surface must be **at least 1m**. High-pressure cleaners are more likely to damage thin coatings with minor damage than thicker coatings. The paints crumble and then no longer provide sufficient protection. This problem is not quite as relevant for rigid PVC film, as its high resistance to surface damage offers a significant advantage over painted surfaces. Critical points include all seals, especially when the adhesion to the sheets is destroyed by the high-pressure cleaner, moisture penetrates into the cracks and crevices, destroying the surface coating from the inside out.

For the reasons mentioned above, cleaning work should generally only be carried out by experienced specialist companies.

To predict the long-term usability of surfaces, the exact intended use and the type of stress with aggressive media must always be known beforehand. If surfaces are to be cleaned differently from the recommended method, this must be clarified beforehand with our sheet metal suppliers. The cleaning method, cleaning cycle, and corresponding cleaning agent must be specified precisely.