

Operation and maintenance – stairs and railings

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1. Basis for design and calculations

Our designs are based on the building regulations of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), such as BFS 2019:2 – BBR 28 and EKS 12. In-house testing and evaluation are performed continuously.

2. Material and manufacturing

Materials in our products meet the standards of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket). All material is purchased with analysis and inspection certificate 3.1.B or from approved suppliers so that we can verify that it meets the requirements.

Welding personnel are certified according to SS-EN ISO 9606 – 1:2017.

3. Surface treatment

Most steel structures supplied are hot-dip galvanized or painted, but other surface treatments can also be quoted.

Hot-dip galvanizing is standard according to SS-EN ISO 1461. Another class is available at extra cost but must be specified in the order.

When ordering painted parts, specify the corrosivity category per SS-EN ISO 12944.

4. Handling

Nordguard products are made entirely of steel, hot-dip galvanized or painted. Zinc thickness follows the standard SS-EN ISO 1461 unless the customer specifies otherwise.

Color choice for painted parts depends on the corrosivity category or customer requirements. No extra measures are needed during installation, dismantling, transport or disposal, as our products contain no environmentally hazardous substances.

5. Care of hot-dip galvanized products

For damage from abrasion or other mechanical impact, brush the damaged area, remove any rust with a wire brush, then paint the damage with a zinc-rich paint such as cold galvanizing.

For major damage, treatment with zinc-rich paint must be repeated several times. Blasting the surface before painting may also be advisable. Damage repaired with zinc paint must be inspected at least annually, as this treatment does not last as long as a hot-dip galvanized surface.

For very extensive damage, the product should be re-galvanized. Hot-dip galvanized surfaces must not be exposed to corrosive substances, as this compromises their rust protection.

6. Care of painted surfaces

Clean and, if needed, prime the damaged surface. Paint according to the paint manufacturer's recommendations.

7. Care of wooden parts

These wooden parts are a quality product with a moisture content of 7 - 10% (furniture-dry). You must therefore store the parts in a dry, heated space (15 - 25 degrees). Stair parts must be placed 10 cm above the floor (e.g. on a pallet) so they do not absorb moisture. Improper storage can cause swelling or drying cracks, resulting in extra costs for which we cannot accept responsibility.

In addition, the wooden parts must be handled with care; avoid knocks and impacts, and place them on a flat, clean surface to avoid pressure marks.

Care instructions for lacquered woodwork

If washing is needed, wash the woodwork with a cloth dampened in lukewarm water with an alkali-free synthetic detergent. Remove stains that washing cannot with a cloth dampened in mineral spirits (do not pour the liquid on the surface). Be sure to touch up worn surfaces before the wood is damaged. Before touch-up, the wood must be clean and dry. If needed, roughen the surface by lightly sanding with fine sandpaper.

Care instructions for oiled woodwork

Oiled woodwork requires regular maintenance. Oiled wood surfaces are not as durable as lacquered ones.

1. Oil wooden parts generously shortly, 2 - 3 weeks, after installation.
2. Oil wooden parts regularly as needed depending on wear and sunlight, usually 3 - 4 times the first year and then usually twice a year.
3. Oil: e.g. Alcros wood oil, colorless.
4. Clean with a clean, slightly damp mop or cloth.
5. Avoid scouring agents of all kinds.

Damage/tampering must be remedied immediately by a professional. Until then, cover the damage with cardboard or hardboard.

8. Care of mats on steps or landings

Clean mats according to the mat manufacturer's recommendations. If a mat on a step or landing comes loose at the edges or similar, do the following: Loosen the mat slightly more than it has come loose, clean the substrate thoroughly and re-glue with contact adhesive.

9. Care instructions for terrazzo

Terrazzo surfaces must be washed regularly with soft soap (yellow, green or stone soap), soap powder or soap flakes. These cleaners leave a thin protective greasy film that prevents absorption of water and dirt. They also bring out the color, luster and texture of the aggregate. Synthetic detergents cannot offer the same effect, regardless of label claims. Vacuum terrazzo surfaces before washing. Avoid dry cleaning methods.

Stains

Heel marks, various spills and ground-in dirt, asphalt stains, paint and the like are removed primarily with sandpaper, possibly wet sandpaper and water, and secondarily with mineral spirits. Then wash the cleaned spot with soft soap or soap solution. Where the surface is contaminated with oil, thinner, alcohol or similar absorbed into the terrazzo layer, machine grinding or even chiseling out and repair may be required. In that case, contact a terrazzo specialist.

Damage

During moves and renovations, the terrazzo surface on stairs and floors can sometimes be damaged and need repair. A repair requires both skill and the right equipment. Therefore, first contact a terrazzo specialist with skilled tradespeople. If the damage is minor you can handle it yourself, but feel free to contact the terrazzo specialist, who can provide repair materials and information.



Warning! Do not use acids or cleaners containing acids.

Acids etch the surface, cause yellow stains and make surfaces impossible to keep clean over time. Such agents include masonry cleaners and cleaners for ceramic tiles, brick, etc.

Many common synthetic detergents, such as heavy-duty cleaners, also have a directly harmful effect on terrazzo surfaces: the aggregate breaks down and the surface finish disappears. Floor wax and other waxes are often tinted and therefore risk a darker and possibly blotchy floor surface.

Lacquers, stone gloss agents and other polishes almost always create a more or less sealed, water-impermeable surface. This can cause lime efflorescence.

Salt is very destructive to terrazzo surfaces. Where salting cannot be avoided, an effective entrance mat is essential. In some cases a water-repellent stone polish may be used to protect the surfaces, but only after the lime efflorescence has subsided. Consult the supplier for treatment.