

Case study



Aluminium extrusion die cleaning at an award-winning manufacturer of window systems

To ensure consistent high quality the extrusion dies used to produce their broad range of products need to be cleaned quickly and efficiently on a regular basis.

Based in Auckland New Zealand, Altus is an award-winning leader of the Aluminium extrusion and rolled product market. They distribute their high-quality window systems and industrial aluminium products throughout New Zealand and across the world.

With a broad range of products in their portfolio, they continually have a large number of aluminium extrusion dies that need to be cleaned and maintained between production runs.

Rapid and thorough cleaning is essential to ensure all extrusion die imperfections are identified and corrected to ensure the company's high-quality product standards are maintained.

To achieve this, Altus invested in a Vapormatt Cougar wet blasting machine that makes short work of the company's extrusion die cleaning needs.

It consistently and reliably removes all caustic trace from the caustic soda dip process along with any residual aluminium particles that could potentially damage profiles.

Crucially wet blasting thoroughly cleans their extrusion dies so inspection is easier and rapid.



Whilst the Cougar is powerful enough to polish critical bearing surfaces, thanks to the cushioning effect of the water in the wet-blasting process, it does this without any danger of producing geometric changes to their die profiles.

For Altus, it is essential the Cougar is as good at die cleaning as it is, given every die needs cleaning regularly and the company's particularly large and diverse range of extruded products. There are always a lot of dies to clean!

Jacques Naudé, Altus' Process Improvement Engineer, sums up the performance of the Cougar very succinctly, "The machine works well and does a great job at cleaning dies."



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