



This document is intended as a reference guide for the basic maintenance and care of Nichiha Architectural Wall Panels (AWP). It outlines the important steps an AWP owner must follow in order to maintain the durability and warranty eligibility of the products. Detailed installation instructions with included additional care and maintenance information are available via nichiha.com/resources/installation.

Natural environmental factors such as sunlight and weather, as well as maintenance, directly impact the lifetime of fiber cement cladding. The product appearance, its ability to shed/block water, and durable lifespan can be extended by following the information provided in this guide.

Inspection & Maintenance Schedules

Annual inspections by the owner of Nichiha AWP following an initial, post-installation review are advised according to three main aspects:

Panel Appearance: The owner should annually check the panels for visual defects such as indentations or chips. Refer to *Repairing Minor Damage* on the next page.

Finish: Nichiha AWP coatings may deteriorate over time due to ultraviolet light from the sun and the effects of weathering. Examine the finish/coating every year. Nichiha recommends repainting of the AWP product after the clear coat "finish warranty" period as follows*:

- Contact a paint professional about refinishing fiber cement.
- Repaint custom color panels with exterior grade 100% acrylic latex, according to the paint manufacturer's instructions.

Sealants: Inspect sealants regularly to identify any cracking, lack of two-sided adhesion, or shrinking. Nichiha requires ASTM C920 compliant sealants. See *Nichiha Technical Bulletin: Sealants*. Refer to the sealant manufacturer for further information about product requirements and longevity.

Cleaning

- Wash down exterior surfaces as needed to remove any dirt and debris. DO NOT use high-pressure power washers which may damage fiber cement. Use no more than 400 psi at 10-12" away from panels. Do not pressure wash Illumination panels.
- A mild household detergent and soft bristle brush or cloth may be used if needed. Commercial mold/mildew cleaners may be used but dilute chlorinated mold killer with water, dilution percentage should be based on manufacturer recommendation.
- Do not allow cleaners to dry on the panels.
- Rinse thoroughly from from high to low.



Around the Structure

- **Vegetation:** A one foot clearance between shrubs, plants, and vegetation and the cladding should be maintained. Prune back plants that are too close or touching the siding.
- **Gutters:** Ensure that all gutters and downspouts are kept clear to prevent overflow onto or behind the cladding.
- **Ground clearance:** Ensure the minimum required ground clearance of 6" is maintained over organic or non-permanent surfaces by preventing build-up of decorative mulch, stone, etc. A minimum required ground clearance of 2" is required over hardscape or decking.
- **Drainage:** Do not allow water or snow to collect against or near the cladding by maintaining proper drainage around the building.
- **Sprinklers:** Do not allow sprinklers to spray directly on the cladding. Regular wetting of the cladding with sprinkler systems may cause discoloration and may also shorten the service life of the finish.

Repairing Minor Damage

1. Isolate the blemish with a low adhesive tape such as painters tape.
2. Lightly brush/abrade the surface within the taped off area in order to remove any loose material.
3. Carefully fill and smooth the resultant prepped area with cementitious patching material such as MH Ready Patch. Allow to dry/cure fully.
4. Gently smooth the patch and then apply color-matched touch-up paint to the affected area with a small artist type brush or cotton swab. Allow touch-up paint to dry and remove the tape.

To extend the Nichiha Product Warranty period from 15 to 20 years, Nichiha requires that you provide to it proof of application of the recommended coating between the 14th and 15th year after initial installation. This action, however, does not also extend the Nichiha Finish Warranty, which expires after 15 years.