

# O'Brien Ornamental Iron, Inc.

## Railing Care & Maintenance

Newly installed powder coated, steel railings can look wonderful when they are added to a residential or commercial property. And in fact, they can remain a beautiful part of your property for many years to come. But like all things, they will remain at their best only if they are taken care of.

Regular use, wear and tear, as well as exposure to the elements are all things that can over time, affect the appearance of your iron railings. Fortunately, with just a little regular maintenance, your railings can look great for a very long time.

### Cleaning

The first thing that will affect your railing's appearance will be dust and dirt. This may be from people's hands when they use the rail, or from pollution or even from nearby construction that is kicking dust up into the air.

You may dust your railing with a microfiber cloth or for a deeper cleaning, mix a quarter cup of household cleaner with a half-gallon of water and wipe down with a cloth. Dry your railing completely after cleaning it.

### Rust Prevention and Removal

Your railing has been sandblasted, primed and powder coated. Powder coating is applied as a dry powder through an electrostatic process, then cured with heat. It is well known for providing high-quality finishes in terms of both functionality and overall look. However, over time, some of this coating may wear off. **It is important to be careful with shovels and ice melt as these can chip the finish and cause scratches in the railing.**

If you start to notice areas of light rust, scrub them away with sandpaper or a wire brush. If the rust is severe, use a commercial rust remover and follow the instructions. Before priming & painting, the surrounding area should be covered with a tarp to keep the area clean. This includes concrete, decks, plants etc. You'll want to use an oil-based enamel primer and paint to recoat the spots you have sanded. A rust resistant primer should then be sprayed onto the metal and left to dry. Once the primer has dried, you may then apply the paint. Spray paint is generally preferred as it will give you better coverage.