

Class I Anodized Aluminum Data Sheet

Class I Anodizing is a **thicker protective coating** for aluminum, recommended for architectural use. The thicker coating is achieved by longer immersion time in the anodizing tank, which costs FFI a bit more but is well-worth the result for **superior resistance to corrosion, scratching and fading**.

For dark colors, Class I gives a more matte appearance and better color. Standard grades of aluminum anodizing are compared below, Class I vs. the lesser Class II and Decorative:

Anodizing Types	Class I	Class II	Decorative
1. Thickness	0.7 mil +	0.4 to 0.7 mil	< 0.4 mil
2. Corrosion resistance/salt-spray testing	3,000 hrs	1,000 hrs	minimal
3. Typical uses	Exterior Architecture	interior architecture	appliance trim, non-architectural
4. Protection from scratching	Best	better	limited
5. Fade-resistant	Yes	No	No

Notes: Data from the Aluminum Anodizers Council (AAC), www.anodizing.org. Thickness of 1.0 mil is 0.001 inch. Corrosion Resistance Testing data per ASTM B 117-07.

Risks of Aluminum Imbedded in Concrete

The bad news: Aluminum is at risk of corrosion when imbedded in concrete, especially concrete containing chloride salts. As well, corrosion of aluminum can result in bubbling and cracking of concrete.

The good news: Aluminum industry researchers find that serious corrosion occurs only for *aluminum that lacks protective coating*, the aluminum is anchored by steel, and the concrete contains chloride salts. Source: The Aluminum and Concrete Controversy, Concrete Construction, Hanley Wood.

FFI uses protective Class I Anodizing on our Made-in USA Aluminum extrusions, including:

- **FFI FASTrack Aluminum system** (SL400 track & connectors)
- **FFI Lift Slide Tracks** (G01734, G00734, G00739, G00738)
- **FFI Sliding Patio Door Track** (AL.90, FDP tracks)
- **FFI Interlock** (SL300.12.01, SL300.12.01)
- **FFI Top-Hung Sliding Door Track** (ALU40, ALU80, ALU 135)

What kind of coating is on the aluminum track you use? Ask your supplier!