
The Schaefer Group, Inc.
1300 Grange Hall Road
Dayton, Ohio 45430-1013

Phone 937-253-3342
Fax 937-253-2306
www.TheSchaeferGroup.com



OUR ALUMINUM FURNACE(S) REQUIRE SPECIFIC CLEANING AND CARE. HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCHAEFER GROUP, INC.

To maintain optimal operation of your molten aluminum furnaces, here are some tips:

If you have idled your furnaces without draining them, conserve energy by reducing the temperature of the molten metal bath to 1,250°F (677°C).

- Install insulated well covers over any exterior wells to minimize heat loss.
- Consider replacing old furnace bath temperature control thermocouples (T/C) and the high limit T/C if they haven't been updated in a while.

It's best to clean the furnace interior daily, at the end of the last shift in operation:

- Use a cleaning hoe tool to skim the dross off the top of the bath.
- Employ a spud tool to scrape and remove any oxides forming on the furnace walls at the molten metal line.
- Weekly, use the cleaning hoe to remove any sludge buildup on the furnace floor.
- Extract any skim or sludge into the charging well or through the cleaning access door, using either a cleaning spoon or hoe, and place it in a dry dross/skim pan. Don't forget to change or clean the air filter.

Applying a quality flux can reduce the need for interior cleaning to once per week.

- We recommend a sodium and fluoride-free fused flux, such as Al-Clean F216. When put on the surface of a molten bath of aluminum, it will turn into a liquid that flows over the entire furnace interior bath. Put in enough to make the liquid cover about .25" (6.4 mm) thick.
- Such a flux application will also help impede aluminum oxide buildup on the furnace walls. When skimming the furnace, use the procedure spelled out above.
- This would be a good time to use a wall cleaning flux to remove oxide build up on the walls that you could not get to during production.

For further details or questions about maintaining your furnace, please contact us or reach out to your Schaefer Group, Inc. representative.

Should you require any of the furnace supplies mentioned above, including thermocouples, cleaning tools, or fluxes, we're here to help. Reach out to us for prompt delivery.