

Spectral Finishing Inc. puts rust on aluminum

By Goody Niosi Writer

SURREY - Spectral Finishing Inc. is the largest company in Western Canada doing aluminum Anodizing.

Tim Chow, the company's general manager and founder, points out that a lot of people don't know what anodizing is.

He explains it in layman's terms: "We actually put rust on aluminum – but we do a very nice job of it."

A more detailed explanation is found on the company's website: "In nature, raw aluminum reacts with air and forms a very thin oxide layer on the surface. Once the thin oxide layer forms, the underlying aluminum is insulated from the air and the oxidation does not propagate.

"Anodizing is the process of forming the same oxide layer on aluminum as nature does, except anodizing does a much better job than nature. Anodizing produces an aluminum oxide layer, also called the anodic film that is thick, hard, and colourable."

In other words, anodizing aluminum produces a strong, durable finish that surpasses painting or powder coating for a long-lasting attractive finish. Spectral Finishing anodizes every sort of product from high tech to low tech – anything that fits inside its tank, which is 14-feet long by 5-feet deep.

One of its more recent jobs saw it anodizing approximately 120,000 square feet of grating for the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. That job alone kept the company busy for almost a year.

Along with its impressive equipment and can-do attitude, Spectral Finishing is also known for its good service and its long term professional employees.

"We have the most experience in town," Chow says. "Our reputation speaks for itself."

Chow founded an aluminum anodizing company, along with a partner in 1987. In 1996, when the partnership dissolved, Chow founded Spectral Finishing.

Within a year, Spectral had



Tim Chow General Manager



BC Games torch

surpassed its former competitor.

Chow estimates that about 99 percent of its business is with

BC companies but those companies do business across the country and globally as well. Spectral Finishing ships its cus-

tomers' products product anywhere.

Spectral Finishing is recognized for the quality of its ser-

vice. Chow explains that the quality of anodized aluminum products is based on the knowledge and skill of the anodizing staff. Along with the management team, each having over twenty-five years of experience, the key staff all have over fifteen years of dedicated experience with Spectral Finishing.

Chow says, "Spectral Finishing is British Columbia's leading architectural and job shop-anodizing company. We have attained our acclaim by focusing on our customer's needs and by utilizing our expertise and experience to meet and exceed those expectations."

Spectral Finishing is currently upgrading its facility and making preparations for the future. In the past year, the company has invested \$1 Million in upgrades. Chow notes that two of his children are planning to succeed him and are training for a future that will see increasing innovation and growth. He says he expects them to continue the company's tradition of success.

"The key to our business success is our employees," he says. "Our employees are here for the long term. One of them has been with me since I started. It's not me that made this company successful – it's them."

Spectral Finishing Inc. is at 103 – 8310 130 Street in Surrey.

www.spectralfinishing.ca

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