



Information bulletin no. 1

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PAINTING GALVANIZED STEEL

Here are the brief technical facts about painting galvanized sheet steel

When Painting Galvanized Sheet Always:

- Remove surface dirt, loose surface deposits and storage stain by lightly hand wire brushing, sanding or scraping.
- Remove oil films and greases by wiping with solvents such as turpentine, mineral spirits or naphtha, or by washing with detergents and water.
- Remove loose paint and feather the edges of old paint when repainting.
- Ensure that the surface is clean before priming. Most paint failures are due to improper cleaning.
- Use a special primer, such as zinc dust-zinc oxide, cement in oil, calcium plumbate, or use a pretreated steel.*

*Pretreated Galvanized Steel

In some instances galvanized steel sheet used for the fabrication of products, such as doors and windows, is treated by phosphating or galvannealing before leaving the mill. Galvanized steel sheet may also be treated after leaving the factory by phosphating, or wash coating with zinc chromate-vinyl butyral.

In all cases of pretreatment, the primer may be omitted, and the finish coats applied directly to the metal. If you do not know if the steel has been pretreated, contact the manufacturer of the product.

- Follow the advice of the paint manufacturer and apply only recommended primers.
- Mix the paint thoroughly.
- Paint in fair and dry weather, and when the temperature is above 50 °F.
- Allow the paint coats to dry between applications.
- Use a compatible top coat — one formulated by the company which manufactured the primer and undercoat.

When Painting Galvanized Sheet Never:

- Apply corrosive chemical solutions such as vinegar, acetic acid, cider, muriatic acid, copper sulphate or hydrochloric acid. These solutions can seriously damage the zinc coating.
- Use stiff wire brushes, power tools, flame or abrasive shot for cleaning.
- Paint over old paint which is loose and non-adherent.
- Forget to use special primers or recommended pretreatment solutions, when specified by the paint manufacturer.
- Use ordinary paints for priming.
- Use paint which has not been thoroughly mixed.
- Paint in foul and wet weather, or when the temperature is below 50 °F.
- Apply paint on wet surfaces.