

Care and storage of BlueScope Steel coated steel products prior to installation

INTRODUCTION

ZINCALUME® aluminium/zinc/magnesium alloy coated steel, TRUECORE® steel and zinc-coated steel (e.g. GALVABOND® steel and ZINCFORM® steel), are manufactured with a surface passivation treatment that;

- a) provides some measure of protection to coils or packs prior to installation; and
- b) assists with uniform weathering of metallic finishes once installed.

ZINCALUME® steel has an additional thin resin film applied to improve rollformability and provide resistance to hand/foot marking during installation. The pre-painted surface of next generation COLORBOND® prepainted steel provides the metal surface some protection from damage, however the painted surface can be adversely impacted if allowed to remain wet in coil or sheet pack form for extended periods.

While these surface treatments assist in protecting against wet storage damage, it is only for a limited period. Wet storage damage needs to be avoided by following sensible site storage practices.

SITE STORAGE

COLORBOND® steel, ZINCALUME® steel and zinc-coated steel roofing and walling products, and TRUECORE® steel building frames, are normally delivered to a building site in strapped bundles. It is important that steel products be kept dry and storage time minimised while the material is still bundled or nested in stacks as rain and condensation are easily drawn between the surfaces of nested sheets by capillary action or driven in by wind. Moisture trapped between sheets is unable to escape and cannot evaporate. This can occur from condensation alone, even in dry weather.

If not required for immediate use, sheets or bundles should be neatly stacked off the ground and protected from rain and moisture with tarpaulins or similar covers. Often it is necessary to load sheets onto a roof as a bundle where complete covering can be impractical. In this case a useful means of protection is to use an appropriate strip of polythene dampcourse, or similar building plastic

material, to minimise water ingress as follows:

- The strip length should exceed the bundle width by about 200 to 300mm. Place the strip under the end of the top sheet so that 100 to 150mm of its width protrudes from each side of the bundle.
- Fold the protrusion down to form a visor which will protect the end of the bundle from rain (only necessary on the high end if the bundle is on a slope).

If packs become wet the sheets should be separated as soon as possible to enable drying by air circulation. If packs remain wet for extended periods of time, staining and/or corrosion may occur. Table 1, below, provides some guidance on the appearance of water damage for each of the products and restoration options should this occur.

In the case of TRUECORE® steel, it is important that excessive moisture caught within the frame channels be removed and dried prior to installation to avoid long-term corrosion issues due to ponding of water.

RELATED BLUESCOPE STEEL TECHNICAL BULLETINS

Technical Bulletin TB-2

Overpainting and Restoration of Exterior BlueScope Steel Products

Technical Bulletin TB-4

Maintenance of COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel

Technical Bulletin TB-10

Cut Edge and Bend Protection of Next Generation ZINCALUME® Aluminium/Zinc/Magnesium coated steel and COLORBOND® prepainted steel with ACTIVATE™ Technology



Technical Bulletin TB-13

General Guide to Good Practice in the use of Steel Roofing and Walling Products

Technical Bulletin TB-18

Guide to Good Practice – Processing and Application of ZINCALUME® steel and TRUECORE® steel.

Table 1: Summary of Product Appearance and Restoration Options

APPEARANCE	RESTORATION
ZINCALUME® STEEL	
 <p>Temporary light white blushing which is aesthetic only.</p> <p>Light corrosion Light film of white surface oxide.</p>	<p>Light white blushing is temporary only and disappears once the sheeting is able to dry in warm conditions*.</p> <p>Light corrosion Normally removed by rain fall or rinsing with fresh potable water.</p>
COLORBOND® STEEL	
 <p>Discolouration Light discolouration and/or paint softening.</p>	<p>Discolouration Refer to Technical Bulletin TB-2 <i>Overpainting and Restoration of Exterior BlueScope Steel Products.</i></p>

* Time for blush to disappear is dependent on ambient air temperature

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