

DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

Preparation of Galvanised Iron Roofs for Painting

For new roofs

The painting and cleaning requirements of Zinalume and ordinary galvanised iron are identical.

- Acid containing pretreatments should be avoided as they remove excessive amounts of zinc and can actually shorten the life of the roof.
- Galvanised roofing iron is usually passivated with a chromate treatment to prevent flash rusting. Alkaline cleaners will remove this.
- Etch primers e.g. Super Etch will occasionally have poor adhesion on galvanised surfaces where the chromate passivation is still present.
- Detergent washing with either a neutral, or alkaline cleaner e.g. sugar soap followed by fresh water rinsing is therefore recommended, solvent wiping is not an effective cleaning method.
- Systems based on acrylic primers and topcoats generally offer the best performance.

For repaints

The method of cleaning can have a profound effect upon the paints long term performance.

- ⇒ If red rust is present, acid rust removers eg KILLRUST METAL PREP should be avoided, as they will remove any remaining galvanising and can actually accelerate corrosion. Rust converters like KILLRUST RUST-EETER give variable results especially if some galvanising is still present.
- ⇒ If red rust is present small spots can be effectively repaired by wire brushing to expose bright clean metal spot prime with KILLRUST COLD GALVIT followed by an Tuabmans UnderProof Galvanised Iron Primer before the top coat.
- ⇒ If a roof shows extensive (5% or more of the total area) red rust, repainting will not probably not prolong it's life, use KILLRUST FISHOLENE compound on the rusted areas, and consider re roofing within 5 years.
- ⇒ On aged previously painted roofs water blasting, while removing any flaking material, may weaken the adhesion of the remaining paint due to the hammering action. This may result in failure of the newly applied paint several weeks or months after application. Water blasting can also polish a surface, which offers a poor surface for the new paint to adhere to.
- ⇒ Darker colours absorb greater amounts of heat, leading to more expansion and contraction which may cause failure of the underlying paint.