

MAINTENANCE OF COLORBOND® STEEL AND ZINCALUME® STEEL

TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB-4

Rev 6, June 2008

This issue supersedes all previous issues

MAINTENANCE

The paint system on COLORBOND® steel and the metallic coating on ZINCALUME® steel are both highly durable and decorative finishes. Simple maintenance of these finishes by regular washing with clean water will not only enhance their life but also maintain their attractiveness for longer periods, thus protecting your asset.

Note: (a) BlueScope Steel do not recommend the use of hard, mineral rich ground waters in the maintenance of COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel. (b) Maintenance must be undertaken in accordance with local government water restriction guidelines.

Applications where the surface finish is naturally washed by rainwater do not usually require this maintenance, e.g. roof cladding. However, maintenance cleaning of COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel products is required whenever the finish is NOT washed by rain. Examples of applications requiring maintenance cleaning include fascia, wall cladding under eaves, garage doors, and the underside of eave gutters.

Washing should be done at least every six months, but may need to be done every three months in coastal areas where marine salt spray is prevalent and in areas where high levels of industrial fallout occur. Care should be taken to prevent the accumulation of salty deposits or industrial dirt.

CLEANING

Establish a regular routine for washing COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel products. Water restrictions permitting (check with your local council), garage doors can be

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washed with clean water at the same time as your car is being washed. Guttering and eaves can be washed down when windows are being cleaned. COLORBOND® steel fencing can be washed down whilst watering the garden.

In cases where the regular maintenance referred to above does not remove all the dirt from the surface of the product, or local water regulations prohibit the use of a mains water hose, the following procedure should be carried out using water obtained from a locally approved source:

- Wash the surface with a mild solution of pure soap or non-abrasive dish washing kitchen detergent in warm water. Application should be with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle nylon brush (no abrasive scourers, steel wool etc.), and should be performed gently to prevent the possibility of scuffing of the surface.
- The COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel surface should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water immediately after cleaning to remove traces of detergent.
- It is recommended that the chosen cleaning method be tried on a small inconspicuous section of the building to ensure that no damage to the COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel sheeting is occurring.
- Never use abrasive or solvent type cleaners (e.g. turps, petrol, kerosene, paint thinners, sugar soap) on COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel surfaces.

For advice on deposits not removed by soap or detergent, contact a Technical Specialist at your local BlueScope Steel State Sales Office.

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