

Painting lead flashing

Introduction

Lead flashing is not recommended for use with COLORBOND® prepainted steel or ZINCALUME® aluminium/zinc/magnesium alloy-coated steel as it can cause accelerated corrosion of the roof sheeting in some exposure conditions.

However, it is recognised that lead flashing must be retained in some re-roofing situations when lead flashing is built into the existing masonry work. In these cases, painting the underside of the lead flashing will provide a suitable barrier between the flashing and roofing sheet surfaces.

The top surface of lead flashing should also be painted with a good quality exterior paint system so that water running over the flashing is not contaminated with lead ions which may then lead to contamination and corrosion of the catchment systems.

Alternatively, a plastic strip such as polythene damp course material can be used as a separator between the ZINCALUME® steel sheeting and the lead flashing. However, the top surface of the lead flashing must still be painted as a measure to help prevent contamination and corrosion of the associated catchment system. For water catchment systems supplying drinking water refer to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (Updated 2018) and your water testing authority for guidance.

The preferred malleable flashing material is a soft zinc sheet flashing, which is compatible with all common metallic roofing materials including zinc-coated steel, COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel.

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