

Spot cleaning of exterior COLORBOND® steel products

Introduction

The paint systems on all exterior COLORBOND® steel products are highly durable and decorative finishes. Simple maintenance of these finishes by regular washing with clean fresh water will enhance the service life of the product and help maintain the appearance. In cases where dirt or other deposits are not removed by the washing effects of rainfall or regular maintenance using fresh water, it is recommended that cleaning of COLORBOND® steel products is conducted with warm soapy water using common household detergents and soft cloth or brush in accordance with [Technical Bulletin TB-4](#) Maintenance of Exterior BlueScope Coated Steel Products.

In situations where spot cleaning is required, and the guidelines contained within [Technical Bulletin TB-4](#) are not effective, additional actions may be considered.

The following information provides information on products and procedures that can effectively address residual staining that may be encountered in exterior applications.

Safety and precautions

The cleaning products referred to in this Bulletin may cause irritation to the skin if direct contact occurs. It is recommended that all safety precautions advised on the relevant product labels are followed, including use in a well-ventilated area and wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment.

Always use any cleaning products in strict accordance with the directions advised on the label.

Prior to conducting any cleaning task using products other than mild detergent and freshwater, the following precautions should be taken:

- Test any cleaning product in an inconspicuous area of the intended surface.
- Apply as per the guidelines contained within this document and assess after 24hrs to ensure no residual effect is imparted on the appearance of the product (surface dulling or discolouration).
- Always conduct cleaning on surfaces when they are cool to touch and, if possible, not exposed to intense direct sunlight.

The information described in this document is relevant only for the specific cleaning products and methods described herein. The effectiveness or suitability of alternative or substitute cleaning products or methods has not been considered.

For information on the cleaning products referred to in this document, contact the manufacturer or distributor of the relevant product.

Materials

The following cleaning products may be used and should be readily available from major supermarkets or hardware stores.



Ajax® Spray n' Wipe Multi-Purpose Kitchen Cleaner



Windex® Original Glass Cleaner



Sabco® Heavy Duty Wet Workshop Towels



Selley's® The Original Sugar Soap

Other equipment required are appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e. protective gloves) and a soft cloth, either microfibre or terry cloth.

Note: The use of abrasive cleaning sponges, scourers, Scotch-Brite® etc. are not suitable for use and will damage the surface of the steel product.

Cleaning process

The following simple procedure should be followed to remove instances of staining.

1. Any bulk deposit should first be removed with a soft cloth or paper towel, using soap and water if necessary, as per the guidelines in [Technical Bulletin TB-4](#). The following steps may then be followed to address any residual staining.
2. Apply cleaning product either directly to the stained surface or on to the cleaning cloth and wipe the affected area.
3. In most circumstances only light wiping pressure is required. High pressure or excessive rubbing should be avoided.
4. A clean and dry portion of the cleaning cloth, or a fresh cloth should be used to wipe away the residue of the cleaning product from the cleaned surface before it dries.
5. If required, this process may be repeated.

In some circumstances, the cleaned area may appear slightly different in appearance to the surrounding areas immediately after the cleaning process has been conducted. It is anticipated that this appearance will dissipate within a short period of time.

Further assistance

If the process described above does not prove effective, contact BlueScope Steel Direct for further advice.

Related BlueScope Technical Bulletins

[Technical Bulletin TB-4](#) Maintenance of Exterior BlueScope Coated Steel Products

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