

# Maintenance of COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel

## INTRODUCTION

The paint system on next generation COLORBOND® prepainted steel and the metallic coating on ZINCALUME® aluminium/zinc/magnesium alloy coated steel with Activate® technology are both highly durable and decorative finishes. Simple maintenance of these finishes by regular washing with clean water will enhance the service life of the product and maintain the appearance.

“Unwashed areas” are areas on a building that are sheltered from general rain washing and are therefore not naturally washed by rainfall. Condensation can be absorbed by the dust and dirt that build up in these areas, leading to an increase in the time that the material is in contact with sufficient moisture to initiate corrosion (i.e. time of wetness). The associated effect is exacerbated in the vicinity of a salt marine influence, where the build-up includes marine salts and/or other pollutants (e.g. industrial fall out). Regular cleaning of COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel products in unwashed areas is required. Examples of applications requiring cleaning include, but are not limited to, fascia, wall cladding under eaves, garage doors, and the underside of eave gutters, carports and patios.

Washing should be done six monthly as a minimum, or three monthly in coastal areas where marine salt spray is prevalent and/or in areas where high levels of industrial fallout occur.

**If you have any questions regarding this Bulletin, contact BlueScope Steel Direct on 1800 800 789.**

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## CLEANING

It is good practice to establish a regular routine for washing COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel products. Water restrictions permitting (check with your local council), garage doors can be washed with fresh portable water at the same time as your car is being washed. Gutters, fascia and eaves can be washed when windows are being cleaned. COLORBOND® steel fencing can be washed when watering the garden.

In cases where regular maintenance using fresh portable water does not remove all dirt from the surface of the product, or local water regulations prohibit the use of a mains water hose, the following procedure should be followed 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. Washing should be conducted with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle nylon brush (no abrasive scourers, steel wool etc.), and be performed gently to reduce the possibility of scuffing the product surface.
- Thoroughly rinse the COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel surface with fresh portable water immediately after cleaning to remove traces of detergent.

### NOTE:

- i BlueScope Steel do not recommend the use of hard, mineral rich ground waters in the maintenance of COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel.
- ii Ensure maintenance is undertaken in accordance with local government water restriction guidelines.
- iii It is recommended that the chosen cleaning method be tested on a small inconspicuous section of the building to ensure that no damage to the COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel sheeting occurs (e.g. surface dulling or discolouration)

- iv Never use abrasive or solvent type cleaners (e.g. turps, petrol, kerosene, paint thinners, sugar soap) on COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel
- v For advice on dirt or other material not removed by soap or detergent, contact BlueScope Steel Direct.

## ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE

The long-term performance of COLORBOND® steel and ZINCALUME® steel can at times be impacted by the durability of the accessories which are in contact with the product. For example, rapid deterioration of the fasteners used to fix COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel roofing or walling can result in sacrificial corrosion of the product in the areas immediately adjacent to the fasteners. It is therefore good practice to:

- Ensure that fasteners used to fix COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel are suitable for that location. For further information refer to **Technical Bulletin TB-16 Fasteners for Roofing, Walling and Accessory Products - Selection Guide**
- Include regular inspection of fasteners into the maintenance routine. Consideration should be given to replacing any fasteners showing evidence of red rusting.

## RELATED BLUESCOPE STEEL TECHNICAL BULLETINS

**Technical Bulletin TB-16**  
*Fasteners for Roofing, Walling and Accessory Product - Selection Guide*



The information and advice contained in this Technical Bulletin (“Bulletin”) is of a general nature only and has not been prepared with your specific needs in mind. You should always obtain specialist advice to ensure that the materials, approach and techniques referred to in this Bulletin meet your specific requirements.

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