



Galvanized Steel TECHNICAL BULLETIN #8

Cleaning Recommendations for Galvanized Steel Sheet

8.0 Introduction.

Cascadia Metals supplies pre-painted steel which contains a factory-applied baked-on coating. This coating has been formulated to provide optimum performance for years with minimal service requirements. Please read this guide thoroughly to learn how to properly maintain both the protective and aesthetic properties that the coating will provide throughout the life of the product. These instructions will serve as your guide when you clean, touch-up, or repaint your metal products.

8.1 Cleaning

To maintain your factory-applied finish so it will last for many years, a minimum routine cleaning of at least once a year (or as required by the warranty) is recommended. The cleaning routine will vary depending on geographic area, environmental conditions and the coating finish. In industrial areas and severe marine environments, it is recommended that cleaning occur at least twice per year, or as required by the warranty. In most cases, simply washing with plain water (also referred to as sweet water and tap water) using a hose will be adequate. The water used should not contain salt above what is found in normal drinking for your area.

In areas where dirt collection is heavier or mildew has occurred, the following solution is recommended to remove these build-ups:

- 1/3 cup dry powdered detergent (such as Tide®)
- 2/3 cup tri-sodium phosphate (such as Soilax®)
- 1 quart sodium hypochlorite 5% solution (such as Clorox®)
- 3 quarts water

Note: It is advisable to use rubber gloves and follow all safety and use instructions provided by the suppliers of these materials when handling this solution.

A stiff bristle brush may be useful for embossed metal. To minimize streaking, always wash from the bottom to the top. A clean water rinse (also referred to as sweet water and tap water) should follow immediately. Care must be taken when on the roof and when using the brush to avoid scratching the paint film as this may void the warranty should failures occur as a result of these damages.

Strong solvents and abrasive type cleaners should be avoided to prevent any permanent damage to the finish. Remove caulk compounds, oil, grease, tars, wax and similar substances with mineral spirits only to those affected areas. Follow with detergent cleaning and clear water rinsing. Be sure to rinse thoroughly.

Warranty requirements state that fresh water rinses be documented and maintained should a warranty issue arise. These documents should contain the date and method used for the cleaning.

Any technical information or advice contained in this bulletin is provided without charge as a service to the industry. The use of this information or advice may produce unexpected results, and any persons intending to make use of this information are urged to carry out tests of their own to satisfy themselves they are using the correct materials, approach and techniques. Correctly following the information and advice should produce a satisfactory result but Cascadia Metals assumes no responsibility whatsoever in relation to such information or advice. Please ensure you have the most current Technical Bulletin.
