

Overpainting Guide



Made to stand the test of time

COLORSTEEL® prepainted steel is manufactured by New Zealand Steel on a continuous coil paint coating line. This involves the application of a high durability coating system to a metallic coated steel substrate, which is then baked in a high temperature oven, to create a durable finish.

If required, COLORSTEEL® can be successfully overpainted, however the following should be considered:

- Air drying paints have different weathering characteristics to COLORSTEEL®. This means that the high durability of the COLORSTEEL® finish is often not matched by air dried paints, including touch-up paint.
- There is no texture match for COLORSTEEL® in a Matte finish and no colour match for COLORSTEEL® in a Metallic finish.
- It is important to note the COLORSTEEL® warranty does not cover failure of the product caused by post paint systems, or the failure of post paint systems.



Minor scratches & blemishes

New Zealand Steel does not recommend the use of touch-up paint to repair damage or scratches to the painted surface. Air drying paints have different weathering characteristics to COLORSTEEL®, leading to variations in appearance over time where touch-up paint has been used. New Zealand Steel has no recommended method for the removal of touch-up paint.

Minor scratches should be left alone as the available metallic coating will protect against corrosion. If scratches are more noticeable on new material, it is the recommendation of New Zealand Steel to replace the affected product.

Galling/fretting is generally only superficial damage caused by surfaces rubbing together as a result of vibration and inter-sheet movement during transport. Treat as per minor scratches.

Overpainting COLORSTEEL®

- It is normal practice to ensure any surface to be painted is in a suitable condition for painting. The most appropriate preparation is dependent on the age and condition of the surface. The table below provides recommendations on surface preparations for COLORSTEEL® prior to overpainting.
- The most suitable paint type for overpainting COLORSTEEL® is generally water-based acrylic. However, in more corrosive salt marine locations, it may be necessary to choose a paint system that has enhanced corrosion resistance (for example, inclusion of a zinc-rich primer).
- Due to ongoing improvements in paint technologies, at any one time there are numerous potentially suitable paint products available. It is therefore recommended that a reputable paint supplier be consulted to determine the most appropriate paint system for your particular application and environment.
- It is recommended that the paint supplier's safety guidelines are followed, especially those regarding the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Ensure conformance to local legislative requirements for "Working at Heights" and local water restrictions.
- It is recommended that paints from different suppliers are not mixed (for example, primer and topcoats).
- Note that not all post paint systems available are suitable for use in the collection of drinking water. Therefore, if a paint system is applied to a roof used for drinking water collection, ensure that it is recommended by the paint supplier for this purpose.
- Air drying paints have different weathering characteristics to oven cured prepainted products like COLORSTEEL®. Therefore, areas overpainted with air-drying paints to match adjacent COLORSTEEL® areas may weather at a different rate and vary in appearance over time.

RECOMMENDED SURFACE PREPARATION

	Mechanical abrasion
Brand new (typically less than 1 year of weathering)	1. Using a mop or a soft nylon bristle broom, wash the COLORSTEEL® surface with household detergent and water to remove all major loose particles that may damage the surface in subsequent steps. Rinse thoroughly with fresh potable water and allow surface to dry.
	2. Lightly roughen the surface with kitchen scourer pads (not steel wool) to provide a 'key' to enhance adhesion of the selected paint finish by removing surface gloss. Take care not to remove the existing paint surface on bends. Do not use steel wool as an abrasive medium as it will generate swarf (small metallic particles), which will potentially damage and stain the material surface.
	3. Using a mop or a soft nylon bristle broom, wash the COLORSTEEL® surface with household detergent and water. Rinse thoroughly with fresh potable water and allow surface to dry. Note: when overpainting COLORSTEEL® in a Matte finish, the surface finish will be altered via this surface preparation. It is recommended to prepare and apply paint in a test area first.
	Natural Weathering
Aged (typically more than 1 year of weathering)	After 1-2 years of service COLORSTEEL® will typically have a uniformly weathered surface as indicated by a slight reduction in gloss appearance. A uniformly weathered surface should provide adequate adhesion of the selected paint finish. Using a mop or a soft nylon bristle broom, wash the COLORSTEEL® surface with household detergent and water. Rinse thoroughly with fresh potable water and allow surface to dry.
	Note: when overpainting aged COLORSTEEL® in a Matte finish, the surface finish will be altered via this surface preparation. It is recommended to prepare and apply paint in a test area first.

NOTE: The condition of the surface will depend on a number of factors, in particular product age, orientation (i.e. north, south, east or west facing), environment, exposure and application.

Application of overpaint

Apply the selected paint finish to the clean prepared surface. Ensure manufacturer's instructions are followed, especially with regard to application and film thickness. It is recommended to check your colour choice when overpainting COLORSTEEL® in a Matte finish, as the surface preparation step may alter the micro-textured surface.

NOTE: Failure or damage resulting from the overpainting of COLORSTEEL® steel will not be covered by any warranties issued by New Zealand Steel.



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