

Graffiti removal

INTRODUCTION

This technical bulletin provides guidance on the use of graffiti removal products, particularly with respect to COLORBOND® prepainted steel.

Numerous graffiti removal products and anti-graffiti coatings are available on the market, which claim to deal with the removal of graffiti from affected COLORBOND® steel products. The effect of these chemicals on the performance of COLORBOND® steel cannot be guaranteed and use of these chemicals will void BlueScope Steel's warranties.

Chemicals such as Acetone, Methylene Ketone, Toluene, Thinners or commercial paint strippers **MUST NEVER** be used on COLORBOND® steel.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL PRODUCT

There are several graffiti removers available from your local hardware store. Those of a water based nature are likely to be less detrimental towards the environment and safer for use.

IMPORTANT: Graffiti should be removed from all substrates as quickly as possible because if it is allowed to cure over a period of time it can be more difficult to remove.

Procedure for use

As a guide, the following procedures should be followed for removing graffiti from affected COLORBOND® steel products.

1. Familiarise yourself with the correct use and safety directions as shown on the label. Contact the graffiti removal supplier should you require the relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
2. Ensure recommended personal protective equipment is worn (including gloves, glasses and long sleeves).
3. Using a spray bottle or bucket, rinse the graffiti affected area with water to prepare and clean the surface before applying the product.
4. Spot test the product by starting from the edge of the affected area, apply the solution to a small region, and allow to sit for approximately one minute.

WARNING: Use of excessive graffiti remover can result in dissolved overpaint staining uncovered areas.

5. After one minute, gently rub off some of the graffiti that has been sprayed with Graffiti Remover using a clean soft cloth or sponge. The pressure to be applied to remove graffiti will depend on the type of graffiti paint.

WARNING: DO NOT use abrasive materials such as steel wool or kitchen scourers as these will damage the COLORBOND® steel surface. Stubborn graffiti may require extra time, patience and reapplication of the graffiti remover to remove the graffiti from the surface.

6. Rinse the surface continually with the water to minimise residual staining.
7. Repeat steps 3 to 6 until the graffiti is removed.
8. Once the graffiti is removed, thoroughly wash the affected area with water to remove any remaining graffiti remover or overspray from the surface of the COLORBOND® steel product.

IMPORTANT: Use of the Graffiti Remover will result in a short term increase in gloss of the COLORBOND® steel surface. This effect is temporary only, and will reduce over a number of days.

ANTI-GRAFFITI COATINGS

There are many anti-graffiti coatings on the market that are marketed to provide protection from graffiti by forming a barrier between the sprayed surface and the graffiti. However, the use of such products will void your COLORBOND® steel warranty and raises a number of other issues which should be considered prior to use, including:

- It is possible the performance of the anti-graffiti coatings may adversely affect the appearance of COLORBOND® steel. This may include yellowing and peeling of the graffiti coating which can be extremely difficult to rectify should problems arise. Additionally, any anti-graffiti coating service life is unlikely to match that of the COLORBOND® steel finish.
- Anti-graffiti coatings may contain aggressive solvents, which will have a harmful effect on the paint finish of COLORBOND® steel.
- Some anti-graffiti coatings can become 'tacky' when dried. This has been found to result in increased dirt retention.
- When graffiti is removed, the anti-graffiti coating may be damaged and re-coating may be necessary. In time, this could lead to a multiplicity of layers of anti-graffiti coating, increasing the probability of problems due to adhesion and durability of the anti-graffiti coating.

At all times you should consult suppliers of anti-graffiti coatings and request assurance as to the suitability and performance of their products.

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

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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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