

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB-24

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INTRODUCTION

Unfortunately fences and walls are subject to defacement by graffiti.

Numerous graffiti removers or anti-graffiti coatings are available on the market, which claim to deal with this problem when it affects COLORBOND® prepainted steel. The effect of these chemicals on the performance of COLORBOND® steel cannot be guaranteed and use of those chemicals will void BlueScope Steel's warranties.

Chemicals such as Acetone, Methylethyl Ketone, Toluene, Thinners or commercial Paint Strippers used as graffiti removers must never be used on COLORBOND® steel.

GRAFFITI REMOVERS

One Graffiti removal product which has been shown to be effective in removing graffiti from COLORBOND® steel is DuPont™ Graffiti Remover (EZ-3463™).

Use of this product in accordance with the on-pack directions will not affect your fencing warranty for COLORBOND® steel.

DuPont™ advises that its product is a non hazardous, biodegradable water based product, which can be sprayed on affected surfaces with generally good results.

IMPORTANT - It should be noted that 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 affected COLORBOND® steel.

1. Familiarise yourself with the correct use and safety directions as shown on the label. Contact DuPont™ should you require the relevant MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet).
2. Ensure recommended personal protective equipment is worn, (including gloves, glasses and long sleeves).
3. Use a spray bottle or bucket, give the graffiti affected area a rinse 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 - Avoid abrasive materials such as steel wool or kitchen scourers as these will damage the COLORBOND® steel surface. Stubborn graffiti may require time, patience and reapplication of the graffiti remover to remove the graffiti from the surface.

6. Rinse the surface with the water sprayer continuously to minimise residual staining.
7. Repeat steps 3 to 6 until the graffiti is removed.
8. Once the graffiti is removed give the fence a good final wash, to remove any remaining graffiti remover or overspray from the surface of the fence.

NOTE: Use of the DuPont™ 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.

For more information regarding the DuPont™ EZ-3463™ Graffiti Remover, call 02 9757 5111 for technical enquiries.

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 and may 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 may be somewhat '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 and increasing the probability of problems due to adhesion and durability of the 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.

The information and advice contained in this 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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