

# FLASHING MATERIALS FOR ZINCALUME® STEEL AND COLORBOND® STEEL SHEET

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB-8

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This issue supersedes all previous issues

### COMPATIBILITY

Due to a phenomenon known as galvanic or bi-metallic corrosion, some commonly used metals can cause accelerated corrosion when used with ZINCALUME® zinc/aluminium alloy-coated and COLORBOND® prepainted steel sheet.

### COPPER

Copper is incompatible with both ZINCALUME® steel and COLORBOND® steel, either in contact with or where water can flow from it, such as is often experienced with hot water system overflows. Painting the outside of the copper pipe is recommended. Hot water discharge pipes should be extended beyond the roof, preferably to ground.

### LEAD

Lead is the only metal generally considered to be compatible with zinc-coated steel but not with ZINCALUME® steel or COLORBOND® steel. ZINCALUME® steel, in contact with or receiving run-off water from lead is prone to corrosion. Pure zinc or aluminium are suitable alternatives, although neither are as workable as lead.

In the event of roof renewals where lead already exists and its re-use is desirable, the ZINCALUME® steel or COLORBOND® steel must be insulated from the lead by a suitable barrier.

This can be achieved by painting the underside of the lead or preferably both surfaces to ensure complete electrical separation. Plastic film can also be used provided it is robust enough and will not tear e.g. Polyethylene damp-course.

Painting the underside of lead flashings already existing on an old building well enough to ensure

separation is not easy. Polyethylene damp-course placed between the lead and ZINCALUME® steel sheet (*with paint on top*), is a better alternative.

Lead in the water run-off should be avoided by painting the top surface of the lead flashing.

Applying two or three coats of water-based acrylic is suitable but any painting must be maintained so that it will not break down and expose any of the lead surface.

### OTHER FLASHING MATERIALS

Roof penetration flashings are available in a wide range of rubber and aluminium materials, and can be used with ZINCALUME® steel and COLORBOND® steel.

The most popular flashing materials are COLORBOND® steel or ZINCALUME® steel sheet formed to suit the application. While zinc-coated steel can be used with ZINCALUME® steel or COLORBOND® steel, its generally lesser life-span makes it impractical in the long term.

COLORBOND® Stainless steel requires the use of stainless steel flashing products. Zinc-coated, zinc/aluminium alloy-coated and COLORBOND® prepainted (*ZINCALUME® steel base*) steel flashing must not be used with COLORBOND® stainless steel.

Where localised corrosion has occurred on a roof, the damaged area should be repaired. Following the removal of corrosion a suitable primer and top coat should be applied, preferably of a similar colour to the unaffected area of the cladding material. Please refer to Technical Information brochure "Painting Zinc-Coated or ZINCALUME® Steel Sheet".

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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