

# Care and Maintenance

of CERAM-A-STAR® finishes for painted metal building products



**AkzoNobel**

Tomorrow's Answers Today

## The factory-applied finish on your metal building panels is a baked-on coating designed to give trouble free performance for years, with little service required.

This brochure serves as a guide to maintaining the aesthetic and protective properties of the coating for the life of the metal building panels. It is important to read this brochure thoroughly and completely before attempting to clean or touch-up factory finished building panels.

It is the user or their agent's responsibility to select materials and implement procedures specific to the safe, proper and compliant use of cleaning agents, paints and solvents mentioned below.

### Cleaning painted surfaces

While factory-applied finishes for metal building panels are so durable that they will last many years longer than ordinary paints, it is desirable to clean them thoroughly on a routine basis. Apparent discoloration of the paint may occur when it has been exposed in dirt-laden atmospheres for long periods of time. Slight chalking may also cause some change in appearance in areas of strong sunlight.

A good cleaning will generally restore the appearance of these coatings and render repainting unnecessary. An occasional light cleaning will also help maintain an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

To maintain the original finish of the metal building panels, the only regular maintenance necessary is that of annual washing. Mild solutions of biodegradable cleaner or household ammonia will aid in the removal of most dirt, and the following are recommended levels:

- 1.) One cup of Simple Green®, or other non-toxic biodegradable cleaner, which contain less than 0.5% phosphate, dissolved into two gallons of warm water. NOTE: The use of detergents containing greater than 0.5% phosphate is not recommended for use in general cleaning of building panels. NEVER BLEND CLEANSERS OR DETERGENTS WITH BLEACH.
- 2.) One cup of household ammonia dissolved into five gallons of water (room temperature).

Working from the bottom to the top of the metal building panels, the panels may be washed with either solution. The use of a well soaked cloth, sponge, brush (with very soft bristles), or a low pressure spray washer is advised.

We do not recommend the use of scouring powders or industrial solvents, since these agents may damage the film. Solvent-containing cleaners such as Fantastic®, however, are very effective and can be used without concern.

If mildew or other fungal growth is a problem and cannot be removed as outlined above, household bleach, mixed at a concentration of one cup of bleach to five gallons of water, along with one cup of a mild soap (e.g., Ivory) to aid wetting, is recommended.

Once the building panel is washed, thorough rinsing with clear water is necessary to eliminate the possibility of residue. Failure to remove all residues from these cleaning steps may damage the film.

# Air dry touch-up application instructions

Air dry touch-up paints are formulated for fast drying and can be used successfully for spot or scratch touch-up repair.

## Surface preparation

Any metal building panel surface to be touched up must be properly prepared to assure the continued performance of the coating system. The following five problem areas must be addressed before the repainting process can begin:

### 1.) Dirt and mildew

Dirt, loose chalk and mildew must be removed as recommended by the cleaning method outlined in the section, "Cleaning Painted Surfaces." Heavier dirt accumulations, which must be addressed prior to repainting, may necessitate the use of a dilute solution of Spic and Span® (1 cup into 5 gallons of warm water). NOTE: Detergent containing greater than 0.5% phosphate is recommended only as a preparation prior to repainting. Do not use such detergents for routine cleaning.

**Always rinse the surface thoroughly to remove any of the agents used in the cleaning procedure. Residual cleaners left on the surface will damage the adhesion of the newly applied paint system.**

### 2.) Surface imperfections

Minor scratches, which have not left the metal substrate exposed, can be lightly sanded or buffed to create a smoother surface. Care must be taken, however, not to expose the substrate.

### 3.) Additional surface preparation required for new building panels

There may still be a layer of factory-applied wax on the surface of the building panel if it has been installed within the last two years. This material is used to protect the panels during forming and transit, and failure to remove this material will result in poor intercoat adhesion with resultant peeling or flaking of the new coating.

To remove this wax, it will be necessary to lightly scuff the surface with a GRAY (not green) 3M Synthetic Steel Wool pad (equivalent to "000" steel wool) saturated with soapy water. A final wipe and rinse should be done using clean water only, to remove any loose dust or soapy film. It is imperative, of course, that the factory finish itself not be removed during this process.

## Repainting with air dry touch up paint

After the building panels have been properly prepared, they must be coated within 24 hours. Oil-based Alkyd house paint must not be applied over factory-applied finishes.

## Application

Depending upon color and application conditions, two complete coats may be required in order to achieve uniform color and gloss.

Apply only when air, surface and product temperatures are above 50°F (10°C) and surface temperature is at least 5°F (3°C) above the dew point. Application temperatures below 50°F (10°C) may cause poor adhesion and lengthen the drying and curing time. Application temperatures above 95°F (35°C) may cause dry spray, uneven appearance and poor adhesion. Do not apply to surfaces at temperatures of 120°F (71°C) or higher.

Avoid exterior painting late in the day when dew or condensation are likely to form or when rain is threatening. During the early stages of drying, the coating is sensitive to rain, dew, high humidity and moisture condensation. Plan painting schedules to avoid these conditions during the first 16-24 hours of curing.

Air dry touch up paint is recoatable after approximately 4 hours. Apply all coats within one month.



**AkzoNobel**

Tomorrow's Answers Today

[www.akzonobel.com/ccna](http://www.akzonobel.com/ccna)

We're the largest global paints and coatings company and a major producer of speciality chemicals. We supply industries worldwide with quality ingredients for life's essentials. We think about the future, but act in the present. We're passionate about developing sustainable answers for our customers. Based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we have 60,000 employees working in more than 80 countries - all committed to excellence and delivering Tomorrow's Answers Today®.

© 2009 AkzoNobel NV. All rights reserved.  
"Tomorrow's Answers Today" is a trademark of AkzoNobel NV.  
CERAM-A-STAR® is a registered trademark of an AkzoNobel company  
Revision Date: June 2009

