

CARE AND PROTECTION OF UNICOTE® AND UNIZINC® EXTERIOR PRODUCTS

UNIZINC® metallic coated steel is manufactured with a surface passivation treatment that provides corrosion protection to coils or packs prior to installation, and assists with uniform weathering of metallic finishes once installed. Along with this, it also has an additional thin resin film applied to improve rollformability and provide resistance to hand/foot marking during installation.

UNICOTE®, UNICOTE® LUX, COLORCOTE® and MAGNAFLOW® products consist of a pre treatment system applied beneath the primer and topcoat, which also adds to the corrosion protection of the product. The protection provided by these surface treatments is limited against white and/or black staining, which can result quickly when material becomes wet, either in coil or sheet form. For these reasons, it is always recommended that material be kept dry at all times when in coil, sheet or rollformed stacked form.

It is also important that coils and sheet packs be adequately protected from water ingress between coil wraps, or sheets in a pack, during transportation. They should be wrapped and ideally be transported in covered, watertight vehicles. If it is necessary to transport using an uncovered vehicle, the load should be completely covered by tarping to ensure no water ingress if it rains.

It is important that coils and sheet packs be kept dry during storage prior to processing and installation.

They should be stored undercover and protected from becoming wet. Rainwater and condensation are easily drawn between adjacent strip surfaces by capillary action or driven in by wind. Condensation can occur if the temperature of the metal is lower than the dew point of the surrounding air. In this case moisture from the warmer air will condense onto the colder metal surface. Any moisture that is trapped between coil wraps or sheets is unable to escape or evaporate. In such cases the visual appearance of the surface will be permanently damaged due to the absence of free air. If not required for immediate use on site, sheet packs should be neatly stacked off the ground and protected from rain and moisture with tarpaulins or similar covers.

Often it is necessary to load sheets onto a roof as a bundle where complete covering can be impractical. In this case a useful means of protection is to use an appropriate strip of polythene dampcourse, or similar building plastic material, to minimise water ingress. If packs become wet the sheets should be separated as soon as possible to enable drying by air circulation. If packs remain wet for extended periods of time, staining and/or corrosion may occur, which will also void the product warranty.

As importantly, the protective film applied on UNICOTE®, UNICOTE® LUX, COLORCOTE® and MAGNAFLOW® products has very limited thermal and UV resistance, and should be removed immediately following installation.