



## How to Paint a Metal Shed

Using the right painting techniques; this is a once in 20 year job.

Painting a new metal garden shed is easy and it will last for years providing you follow these simple directions.

### **Preparation is the key.**

What is important to remember is that the single biggest cause of paint failing to provide maximum protection on galvanised iron occurs due to the lack of proper preparation or just no preparation at all!

When the galvanised iron is new it has a fine film of oily grease on the surface to help keep it clean and to protect it whilst it is being shipped and constructed, but this must be removed in order to allow the paint to properly adhere to the surface.

There are a few different ways of doing that, one is to wash the galvanised iron with mineral turpentine, another is to use white vinegar solution in water and another is to use a hot sugar soap mix.

### **Removing the oily residue**

Cleaning with mineral turpentine:

- Saturate rags with Mineral Turpentine and wash down all areas to be painted.
- Constantly change the rags as they will become saturated with the oil.
- Hang out the rags when you have finished and allow them to dry out before disposing of them responsibly.

Cleaning with White Vinegar:

- This method is carried out the same as you would with the turpentine except obviously you use White Vinegar.
- Use a mixture of 1 part White Vinegar to 5 parts water.
- Saturate the rag and wipe over every area to be painted.

Cleaning with Sugar Soap:

- Take a large plastic bucket, fill it with hot water and add a double mix of painters [sugarsoap](#), check the mixing directions of the brand you want to use and the double it!
- Using a soft broom, scrub down the shed and any area you are going to paint then rinse off with cold water, allow to dry and then paint.

## Priming & Topcoats

Now and this is the important part, if you are going to paint the shed within 12 months of erecting it, after completing the cleaning process you will need to first apply a coat of galvanised iron primer. This is a water based bonding primer to provide a strong base for the top coat to adhere to, otherwise you run the risk of the top coat peeling off!

If you leave the shed for over 12 months before painting you can use a self-priming 100% acrylic top coat without the need for using a galvanised iron primer, but only if the garden shed is over 12 months old and only after you wash the shed using one of the above processes.

The final step in painting your garden shed is simple.

Clean, prime and then apply two coats of an Ultra Premium 100% Acrylic House Paint produced by any of Australia's leading paint manufacturers such as [Taubmans](#), [Dulux](#), [Haymes](#) or [Wattyl](#).

When you follow this recommended system then you can expect that the next time you need to paint your shed will be in about 20 years, if you don't, then it will be a lot sooner.

For any additional information about this or any other painting project send an email to:

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