



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.

Galvanised Iron

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 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 topcoat to adhere to, otherwise you run the risk of the topcoat peeling off!

If you leave the shed for over 12 months before painting you can use a self-priming 100% acrylic topcoat 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.

Colorbond or Coated Steel

As most Colorbond materials arrive on-site with a plastic sheeting which when removed leaves a layer of grease on the surface, the first thing you must do is remove the grease.

This is achieved by washing the surface down with a hot sugar soap mix and then hosing it off allowing the surface to dry.

The alternative to using sugar soap is to wipe the surface down with a solvent such as mineral turps or spraying thinners and allowing the surface to dry.

Once that has been achieved you then lightly, very lightly sand or abrade the surface with a 180# grade no-fill sandpaper and dust off the surface to remove the dust generated by the sanding process.

Then apply one coat of an etch primer.

The etch primer is designed to bite into the original Colorbond and provide a good sound base for the topcoats

Etch primer is a solvent-based biting primer and is best suited for use under a water-based topcoat.

Then you coat over the surface with a premium grade Low Sheen Acrylic, there are a number of these made by the top manufacturers such as Dulux, Taubman's, Haymes, and Wattyl.

The topcoats are premium grade Low Sheen water-based acrylic and will give you a good finish for your shed.

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

Lance C Futcher
PaintGuru Pty Ltd.
lance@paintguru.com.au

www.paintguru.com.au

How to paint a metal shed www.sheds4less.com.au