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Minor Scratches and the use of Touch-Up Paint

ColorCote® do not recommend or support the use of touch-up paint on any of their painted steel sheets.

As outlined below, the NZ Metal Roofing Manufacturers Code of Practice, recommends the following:

12.5.1 - Touch-Up

Air-drying touch-up paints have different weathering characteristics to the baked-on finish of pre-painted coating systems and variations in natural light conditions will emphasise these differences, producing an unacceptable aesthetic appearance.

Spray cans should not be used for repainting scratches on pre-painted sheeting.

If the scratch is obvious from 3m, the sheeting should be replaced, if not then it should be left alone. Minor surface scratches become less noticeable as the coating weathers and are best left as they do not appreciably affect the corrosion inhibiting properties of the material.

Widespread damage caused by rough handling or an accident, however, should not be corrected by repainting, but the affected material should be replaced.

14.18.5 - Colour Matching Paint

Colour match paint is designed for matching accessories to the pre-painted material; it is not designed for repairing marks or blemishes. The term 'touch-up paint' should never be used. Fasteners and accessories requiring colour matching should be painted before installation.

Air-dried paints used to disguise marks weather at a rate different from that of pre-painted material, sometimes dramatically so, and will often become more apparent than the mark they are intended to disguise. Minor scratches are best left alone, and they will not affect the performance of the pre-painted product due to the self-healing qualities of the primer and metallic coating. They become less evident as the coating weathers.

Minor scratches may be described as scratches that do not extend to the metallic coating, are less than 3mm in width, and are not visually noticeable from three metres. This characteristic will, however vary with the concentration of the scratches, and the visibility of the area affected.

Extensive coating damage to any pre-painted steel product can only be rectified by replacement or repainting of the affected sheets.



The below image illustrates the typical result of an aerosol spray can that was applied to cover up scratches during installation:

