

Colorcoat® pre-finished steel

Vehicle wash facilities - guidance & considerations



COLORCOAT® PRE-FINISHED STEEL FOR VEHICLE WASH FACILITIES

Vehicle wash facilities are extremely demanding environments for any material to resist due to the internal processes, humidity and chemicals.

A vehicle wash facility can have multiple purposes servicing a wide variety of vehicles.

Regardless of whether it is a car wash, a train wash or a truck wash the nature of the demanding environment for all wash facilities is the same with the main differences being the actual size and design of the building.

With regard to the weather side of the facility - the demands and requirements from a material are mostly the same as any other building envelope with the potential exception of localised fall out/spray around open doorways.

A statement of performance guarantee (non Confidex®) of up to 20 years may be available in Europe upon application to Tata Steel, where Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® has been installed externally in an insulated system of standard building envelope design i.e. enclosed building with four walls and a roof.

For the internal environment, the demands on any material are very different.

Internal factors affecting wash facilities

Thin oils including diesel can make the surface soft and can have an effect on the colour of the material long term.

In addition, alcohols, ethyl, methyl and any other chemicals present in car shampoos can have a very detrimental effect on the walls and ceilings of the facility.

Consideration needs to be given to "time of wetness" which is normally high and therefore will have a great impact on material used within the facility.

Product selection

Due to the corrosive nature of these facilities, pre-finished steel may not be the first material that would be selected and a product like stainless steel may be more appropriate.

However as Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® is the most robust pre-finished steel product in our range it provides a suitable and affordable alternative that is durable as well as long lasting. Other Colorcoat® products are not recommended.

The product which is nominal 200 microns is the thickest and most durable product we offer. It has been used successfully for car washes due to its super durability and Galvalloy® metallic coating.



Recommendations

Highly resistant to the daily pressures that will be placed upon the internal face of the main wash facility - Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® can offer excellent levels of resistance to corrosion, damage, abrasion and wear & tear. However there are some important considerations for the use of the product.

Detail in design

It is very important that the cut edges are designed in such a way that no liquid can come into contact with them.

Any joints need to be sealed with an acid free sealant and in such a way that no water can enter or remain between the joints.

This also applies to screw holes and accessories, where it is essential to make sure that no liquid can get into or remain in the screw holes or liquid can remain between the accessories and the pre-finished steel product. An example of such a joint can be seen on the image below.



Assembly and installation

Even during assembly and installation, damage can occur where scratches exposing the Zinc metallic coating can lead to serious consequences of the performance of the pre-finished steel. These need to be repaired immediately after occurrence.

It is also important to assume that liquid can get stuck anywhere. It is therefore recommended that the sheets are not installed right to the bottom (floor level) and best practice is to start with the pre-finished product a little higher, as it is likely that the time of wetness of the floor is 100%. It is preferable to assemble composite panels in a vertical position instead of horizontal.



Facility in operation

A good ventilation system is vital to keep ceilings dry so that no liquid droplets remain.

Product suitability

Due to the extremely corrosive nature of these environments we are unable to offer a guarantee for Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® used inside these facilities, however it remains our most durable product.

Designed to withstand even the most demanding and aggressive environments, Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® pre-finished steel provides super durability and corrosion resistance.

It has been subjected to comprehensive natural and accelerated testing, often way beyond the required standards.

Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra® is used in a wide range of industrial and commercial buildings and real-life scenarios provide further evidence of the product's super durable qualities which provide a benefit when it comes to demanding environments such as vehicle wash facilities.

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