

## Painting Gutters, Down Pipes & Galvanised Roofs

Pro-Roof

Roof-Cote

### 1 A guide to painting galvanised roofs, down pipes & gutters

What is galvanised iron? - Galvanised iron is steel that has been dipped into molten zinc metal. This increases the corrosion resistance of the steel. The resulting material has a bright silver colour and is highly resistant to red rusting. Old galvanised iron may lose the protective zinc coating and red rusting may then occur. The surface of zinc metal oxidises rapidly to form a protective carbonate/oxide layer, which protects the zinc from further damage. This layer causes most paint failures because it can be relatively weak. This results in paint flaking. Zinc metal

also inhibits the curing of enamel paints. This is the main cause of poor adhesion of enamels applied directly to galvanised iron without the correct primer. Waterborne acrylic paints such as Promac Pro-Roof adhere well to clean galvanised iron and have superior exterior durability compared to enamels. However, galvanised iron is prone to "white rusting" in humid or corrosive environments and a properly designed primer (e.g. Promac Promogrip Galv Primer) is necessary for long-term durability.



### 2 Surface Preparation

This is the critical part of any painting project: poor preparation is the principal cause of coating failure. It is very important to remove surface dirt, grease and other contaminants as well as loose paint coatings and surface oxidation (e.g. dull, matt grey surfaces) in order to ensure optimum adhesion and durability of the paint system. The necessary steps are as follows:

1. Wash the surface thoroughly using water and a strong brush. This should remove all loosely bound contaminants and any poorly adhering paint coatings. Use a spatula or flat blade to check adhesion of any existing paint coatings. A high pressure water jet is recommended.
2. Apply Promac GrannoZinc to any exposed metal. This dissolves surface oxidation and helps to remove any oily contamination. Leave in contact with the roof for five minutes maximum, and then rinse the roof with clean water. Leave it to dry out. Apply the primer within two hours of cleaning to avoid possible re-contamination of the surface.
3. Check the adhesion of any existing paint coatings by

pressing adhesive tape (e.g. masking tape) onto the dry surface. Pull the tape off the surface and inspect the underside of the tape if no coating is removed or no dirt or chalky material is on the tape then the surface is suitable for painting. If a powdery layer is removed (painted surfaces only) or paint surface is chalky then apply Promac Bondex®. If sandy particles are removed or surface is dirty then re-wash the surface. If a paint coating is removed or surface under the coating is weak then strip the paint film and repeat the cleaning process.

4. Prime exposed metal using Promac Promogrip Primer (Galvanised) and cure for at least 2 hours before continuing. If red rusting is present, then Promac Uniprime is specified.



### 3 Calculating how much paint needed

1. Estimate the plan area of the roof by measuring the length and breadth of the walls.
2. Multiply this area by 1,25.
3. Estimate the litres of paint needed by dividing the above by 7.
4. One litre of paint will cover approximately 30 m of 30 mm radius downpipe or gutter. This should produce a slight excess of paint, which is useful for touch-up work as required.



### 4 Paint Application

1. IBR or corrugated roofing: Apply primer or Promac Pro-Roof to the prepared surface using a roller (wool or "Propile" type); brush or by airless spraying. Two coats are recommended for optimum durability and quality of finish. Allow the first coat to cure for at least two hours before applying the final coat.
2. Gutters or downpipes: Apply primer or Promac Pro-Roof to the prepared surface by brushing. A small foam roller (e.g. "Vestron®" type) may also be used.



### 5 Other important information

1. NEVER apply paint if rain is forecast, or expected, during the day of application.
2. Apply paint after 08h00 (summer) or 10h00 (winter) to ensure the roof is not too cold or damp.
3. It is recommended that the paint is applied before 12h00 to avoid excessive roof temperatures and to allow the paint to harden sufficiently before any afternoon rain may occur.
4. Always use the SAME batch number for touch-up work. This reduces colour/sheen variations, which otherwise may be visible on the painted roof.

Promac Paints description of products described above

1. Promogrip Primer (Galvanised): A specially formulated corrosion-inhibiting acrylic primer for galvanised iron in good condition.
2. Promac Uniprime: A novel primer for red rusted galvanised iron surfaces.
3. Promac Pro-Roof: A range of waterborne roof paints, which is non-chalking, acid rain resistant and weather resistant. Provides a tough, durable medium sheen finish. Available in the following colours: Black, Oxblood, Ebony, Grey, Red, Brown, Chocolate, Terracotta and Tan.

Contact Promac Paints for further information as well as details of your nearest stockist. Promac Paints:  
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