

Preparation of Aluminium Surfaces for Painting

Issued April 2009

Aluminium is a difficult material on which to apply surface coating finishes. During construction it requires the highest standard of good housekeeping and cleanliness and this should never be overlooked as coating progresses.

There are three steps in preparing aluminium before painting.

1: DEGREASING.

On production, aluminium usually has roll-forming oil deposited on it. This must be removed by washing the surface down thoroughly using T-36 Degreasing Solvent and clean rags, changing the rags frequently to avoid contamination.

2: ETCHING

Using Y-60 Sodium Hydroxide Concentrate

Protective Equipment such as rubber gloves, safety clothing and eye protection should always be used when handling this material or its solutions, extra vigilance is essential. See attached Material Data Sheet for this product.

Strong bases attack Aluminium. Sodium hydroxide reacts with aluminium to create hydrogen gas. This is useful in etching through a resist, removing anodizing, or converting a polished surface to a satin-like finish.

Apply Y-60 solution using soft plastic brush. Allow to remain on surface for 1 to 2 minutes rinse off with fresh water using high pressure water blast. A thorough rinse is essential as not to leave any residues.

3: ABRADING.

The surface should then be abraded in order of effectiveness by either whip sandblasting with White Aluminium Oxide sand, disc grinding or by hand. Sandblasting is recognised as the superior method, followed by disc grinding involving surface grinding using right angle head rotary surface grinders fitted with 60 grit aluminium oxide discs. Finally, hand abrading can be used for small areas using 80-120 wet and dry paper.

Note: Do not use steel wool or wire brushes.

On completion of the surface preparation steps, pre-treatment should then follow as soon as practical to avoid oxidation and recontamination of the surface.

Apply V-32 or V-38 High Build primer as per data sheet.

Apply X-53 or X-56 Polyurethane Topcoat as per Data sheet.

DISCLAIMER: The information in this data sheet is given to the best of our knowledge based on laboratory testing and practical experience. However, as the product is often used under conditions beyond our control, we cannot guarantee anything but the quality of the product itself. We reserve the right to change the given data with out notice.

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THIS DATA SHEET SUPERSEDES THOSE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED.

