

## Repainting Metal Siding and Metal Buildings

In years past, most of us were told metal siding and metal buildings were covered with permanent siding, which meant they never needed painting. However, Father Time and Mother Nature have shown they do not play favorites, these surfaces do wear and weather. Ultimately, they too must be maintained and restored.

The paint on metal siding is a factory-applied coating and it weathers just like ordinary paint. The good news is metal siding is one of the best surfaces to repaint. Although chipping and flaking is uncommon, the paint will chalk and erode, leading to fading of color and loss of gloss. In extreme cases, the underlying metal can be exposed.

As with most painting jobs, proper preparation is the key to better paint performance. Power washing is the most effective way to rid large surfaces of loose dirt, chalk or other material. An alternative is to sponge wash with warm, soapy water and rinse thoroughly.

When surface oxidation, or severe chalking, is present and cannot be completely removed with power washing, carefully remove with steel wool or an abrasive pad. If you cannot completely remove all the chalk, do not paint. Clean off any residue with soap and water followed by a thorough rinsing. If any bare metal is exposed, the area should be spot primed.

Although protected siding areas such as eaves, soffits, and ceilings usually degrade less than surfaces exposed directly to the sun and elements, they often accumulate dirt and mildew. These areas should be power washed to remove all dirt. If mildew is present, it should be removed with a bleach solution, followed by rinsing with plain water. These areas may also be glossy or slick and will require sanding so satisfactory adhesion can be obtained.

The use of a primer is not necessary, when using Van Sickle #702 or #710. They both are self-priming, rust inhibiting Acrylic Latex primer/ finish coats. If a dark accent color is desired, it is recommended to use the #702 as a primer and follow with a 100% acrylic topcoat tinted to the desired color. To insure better coverage of the dark finish coat, the #702 can be tinted.

On all metal siding, check the adhesion of the selected product by applying a test patch. Adhesion will be better on a weathered surface that has been thoroughly cleaned, compared to a new factory applied coating.

When painting pre-primed metal doors, check the manufacturers recommended finish coat (latex or oil), as that can vary depending on the door maker. These areas are subjected to a great deal of wear and abrasion; solvent-base finishes usually perform best.