

Painting Terne Metal



Terne metal is made of a ferrous metal core coated on both sides with a 80% lead/20% tin alloy. It has been used as a roofing material since the 18th century and is still popular in some areas of the country. The metal is factory-coated with a gilsonite washcoat for protection during storage. The gilsonite washcoat is an inexpensive asphaltic material which is easily soluble in most common solvents.

Manufacturers' Primer Recommendations

Manufacturers of terne metal recommend that their own simple linseed oil steel primers be used and then only applied by brush. The brush application dissolves the washcoat, mixes it in with the wet film of the primer and allows the primer mixture to make contact with the actual metal and develop adhesion.

General Painting Recommendations

Solvent cleaning to remove the washcoat is preferred for optimum results. Brush application of an exterior metal primer such as **DEVSHIELD™ 4130 Rust Penetrating Metal Primer** or **DEVGUARD® 4160 Multi-Purpose Tank & Structural Primer** over the washcoat is also likely to work well. However, the incorporation of this washcoat into the primer may have negative effects on drying and color and may cause bleeding. Most conventional alkyd or acrylic latex exterior paints may be used as a finish coat over a properly prepared and primed surface. On roofs with a low pitch or where drainage is poor, finish with a high quality solventborne alkyd enamel such as **DEVGUARD 4308 Alkyd Industrial Gloss Enamel** or **DEVSHIELD 4328 Alkyd Urethane Gloss Enamel**. Generally speaking, water-based products are preferred only on roofs with higher pitch with good drainage.