



MINIMUM MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Introduction.

Simple maintenance of Nexteel™ steel and aluminium by regular washing with water will not only prolong its life but maintain its appearance for longer periods thus protecting your asset. For clarity sake all items are referred to as Nexteel™ product however the advice contained within this maintenance manual pertains to Galvanised, Aluminium/Zinc Alloy-Coated Steel and Aluminium unless otherwise stipulated.

If cared for in accordance with these instructions your building components made from Nexteel™ will give many years of low maintenance life. Applications where the paint finish / surface area is naturally washed by rainwater, do not usually require such maintenance.

Upkeep of areas not washed by rain (also referred to as 'unwashed areas').

Areas not regularly washed by rainwater should be hosed down at least every six months and more frequently in coastal areas where marine salt spray is prevalent, and in areas where high levels of industrial fallout occur.

In cases where the regular maintenance referred to above does not remove all dirt, which may have adhered to the surface of the paint, the following procedure should be carried out:

1. Wash the surface with a mild solution of pure soap or mild non-abrasive kitchen detergent in warm water.
2. Application should be with a sponge, soft cloth or soft bristle nylon brush, and should be gentle to prevent shiny spots.
3. The Nexteel™ product should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water immediately after cleaning to remove traces of detergent.

Never use abrasive or solvent type cleaners (turpentine, petrol, vinegar, kerosene, paint thinners) on Nexteel™ product.

Environment.

Specific advice regarding suitability of the Nexteel™ product should be sought before installation in highly corrosive industrial or marine environments. Avoid locating Nexteel™ product near polluted areas or in areas with aggressive environmental factors that could reduce the life of the product.

This includes areas near barbeques, diesel fumes, air-conditioners, clothes dryers, sprinklers, bore water, water softeners and industrial applications.

General Maintenance Guidelines.

For the use of Nexteel™ products, we recommend that you:-

1. Always use the recommended grade to suit your environment and any special corrosive influences.
2. Store material clear of the ground and protect from rain and moisture prior to installation.
3. Always use fasteners with durability equal to the material being used and which have carbon-black-free washers.
4. Avoid materials and liquids which can cause corrosion, such as lead and copper, green timber or CCA (Copper-Chrome-Arsenic) treated timber, uncoated steel supports, fertilisers, pesticides and abrasive cleaners.
5. Pre-painted Nexteel™ products should not be draining into galvanised eaves gutters or galvanised box gutters.
6. Ensure all metals or alloys that are in direct contact with Nexteel™ steel or aluminium are compatible.
7. Follow manufacturers recommendations for roof pitch, fastener spacings and type, support spacings and other laying procedures when installing products.
8. Avoid the use of black carbon ('lead') pencils for marking sheets.
9. Use metal cutting discs or shears to cut sheets rather than angle grinder discs.
10. Use only neutral cure silicone rubber sealants.
11. Debris from cutting, piercing & screwing, commonly referred to as swarf, should be removed at the end of each day, and not left on the roof or in the gutters.
12. Avoid immersion in concrete, soil or water, or build-up of debris against the product.
13. Matt Finish painted surfaces to be cleaned within 2 weeks of any blemishes occurring to avoid permanent staining
14. Avoid contact with brick cleaning acid.
15. Avoid using touch up paint.
16. Areas not washed by rainwater should be hosed down at least every six months (more frequently in areas with industrial fallout or high salt concentrations).
17. It has been found that sunscreen containing semi-conduction metal oxides such as titanium dioxide (TiO₂) and Zinc Oxide (ZnO) can accelerate degradation of organic materials such as paint. Nexteel™ recommends you prevent contact of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) and Zinc Oxide (ZnO) containing sunscreens.

Selecting an appropriate sealant.

Neutral Cure silicone rubber sealants are the only sealants recommended for use with Nexteel™ products. Look for the words "Neutral Cure" on the sealant cartridge to make sure.

Neutral core sealants do not have acidic additions, which may adversely affect steel, provide good adhesion and do not require a primer except in extreme service conditions. The neutral sealant also provides very high resistance to the damaging effects of ultra-violet rays whilst resisting extremes of both heat and cold while retaining good flexibility.

These factors ensure neutral cure sealants give long life compatible with the performance of Nexteel™ products. Sealants should be applied to avoid exposure to UV rays (i.e. sandwiched in the lap), and so they don't create water run-off and dirt tracks down a roof or façade. For more information please contact your Nexteel™ at nexteel.com.au.

Touching up Scratches.

Pre-painted steel or aluminium may be scratched during handling, however the use of touch-up paints is not recommended for aesthetic purposes. The original oven cured coating and the touched up surface will weather differently and this may cause variations in colour and exaggerate minor blemishes over time. Should a minor scratch need to be "touched up" apply only a Dy-Mark Tekkit Touch-up Pen in the scratched area.

In most cases, minor damage to roofing and guttering cannot be seen and any attempt to overspray the damage may become more unsightly in the future. Minor scratching will not affect the life of the sheet and is rarely obvious to a casual observer. Where the damage is substantial the sheet should be replaced.

Over Painting.

Nexteel™ coated steel or aluminium can be painted without the need for an etch primer. Some paints allow galvanised material to be over painted without priming so check your paint for details. Steel supplied with a pre-painted surface can be repainted with minimal preparation.

Nexteel™ steel or aluminium should not be painted without prior advice or consultation with Nexteel™.

Swarf Removal.

Swarf particles, if left on the surface, will corrode and cause rust stains which will detract from the finished appearance of the project. These stains are often mistaken for early deterioration of the roofing and walling itself.

Swarf can be removed from steel by scrubbing the area with a stiff nylon brush dipped in a mild detergent solution. Rinse the surface with water afterwards to ensure any particles are washed away. If necessary, mop up any excess water with a clean cloth.

Ensure any particles that are swept into the gutters are removed. If swarf staining has already occurred and has begun to embed into the surface so it is not easily removed may need to be painted or replaced.

Prevention of swarf staining is the responsibility of the installer.

Prevention.

CUTTING

Nexteel™ recommends the use of cold cutting saws with an appropriate cutting blade. This is the best method of producing straight cuts on site, as it generates larger and cooler particles than abrasive discs.

Where possible, cutting should be minimised by using factory supplied cut-to-length sheets. For complex cuts, such as those associated with roof penetrations or raking angles, Nexteel™ recommends the use of powered hand shears.

Sheets cut on site should, where practicable, be cut on the ground, with the exterior colour finish of the pre-painted steel facing down. PLEASE NOTE - this method may produce a burr which must be removed prior to fixing. Care should be taken to ensure hot swarf does not come in to contact with nearby Nexteel™ products. DO NOT cut over the top of other coated products, where debris may fall on to other sheets.

Where cutting must be carried out near sheets already installed, the area around the cut must be masked and the stream of hot particles directed away from completed work.

DRILLING

The area around the hole should be masked to shield the product from hot swarf.

Clean Up.

The roof should be swept, hosed and vacuumed or blown progressively to remove loose particles. Maximum care should be taken when attempting to detach swarf that has become stuck; this can be done, but no action that is likely to remove the paint or metal coating should be attempted.

Any damage to these coatings may lead to a reduced life of the material. When sweeping or hosing into a gutter, clean out the gutter before leaving the job in order to prevent premature corrosion. On completion of the job give a final wash or sweep down.

Nexteel™ Pre Painted Steel Sheet.

MILD STAINING

A mild household washing up detergent used according to directions, will remove most mild staining arising from swarf.

SEVERE STAINING

1. Clean the surface by washing with a mild household detergent and water in proportions as recommended by the detergent manufacturer, then wash well with clean fresh water.
2. Remove the corrosion product by using a stiff nylon brush and washing off completely. More heavily affected areas may need a light rub with a scotch guard type pad (do not use steel wool). Abrasive papers should only be used if painting is to be carried out. Great care must be taken not to cause excessive damage to the paint film.
3. Finally, should steps 1 & 2 above prove to be ineffective, treat affected areas with a rag soaked in a solution of METAPHOS AR67 (AMERON Paints), DEOXIDINE (PPG Ltd), or similar. Hose down completely after treatment with fresh water, as residual acid at the cut edge of the sheeting will cause accelerated corrosion of the metallic coating.

FASTENERS FOR ROOFING & WALLING PRODUCT

Fasteners used to fix roofing, walling and accessory products manufactured from steel strip and sheet must give long, trouble free service when exposed to the atmosphere in environments ranging from benign to severe in terms of corrosive effect. A Class 4 fastener should be the minimum fastener coating used when installing Nexteel™ products.

CHOICE OF FASTENERS FOR LONG LIFE

When a long-lasting product is used for roofing, walling and accessories, it is vital the performance of the fasteners used to fix cladding and accessory materials have the same or superior service life as the Nexteel™ product with which they are to be used.

Please contact your nearest Nexteel™ representative for details on the appropriate product to suit your project. The correct selection of fastener for these jobs is of paramount importance for long term structural performance and aesthetics.

In the interests of quality assurance it is essential fasteners used comply with Australian Standard AS 3566.

COMPATIBILITY

Stainless steel, lead, copper, and copper containing alloys (such as MONEL) should not be used in conjunction with Nexteel™ products, refer specific advice on Nexteel Aluminium.

FASTENER TYPES

There are two fastener designs to be considered for use with Nexteel™ materials:-

- Self- drilling screws complying as with AS3566-2000 for fastening cladding to a building structure, and
- Accessory fasteners for fastening roofing accessory items such as flashings. Where accessory fasteners such as pop rivets are required, they should be manufactured from aluminium when fastening Nexteel™ steel or aluminium.

Australian Standard.



Every painted steel product made by Painted Steel Technologies Pty Ltd is guaranteed to meet the relevant Australian Standard and the 'deemed to satisfy' requirements when specified in accordance with the NCC. The information in this brochure is provided as a guide only. For further guidance and to ensure your project fully complies with the requirements of the NCC visit abcb.gov.au or go to nexteel.com.au for more technical data and warranty information.



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