



SOLUTIONS

HOW TO RESIST STEEL RUSTING

When painting steel, the goal is to cosmetically enhance its appearance while providing protection to retard and slow its natural corrosion process. Atmosphere conditions in Florida make corrosion resistant systems a challenge. In addition to moisture and oxygen, sodium chloride ions and salt laden air attack steel immediately upon exposure. Adhering to the following steps is essential when corrosion resistance is required:

1. Sand blast, wire wheel, or wire brush all crusty, mill scaled surfaces to a smooth, rust-free condition. Ultimately, sand blasting to an SSPC 6 commercial blast is superior to hand techniques of rust removal. Any rust not removed will continue to corrode underneath new coating systems.
2. Immediately wipe down the prepared surface with xylene or MEK to remove residues, dust, and grease, and let dry. Then immediately apply one spot coat of Scott Rust-Blok Industrial Rust Inhibitive Alkyd Primer #941 to all of the exposed areas, welds, 90° bends, pipe threads, and pitted areas.
4. Apply a full coat of Rust-Blok Primer to the entire surface by brush, roller, or spray, taking care to lay the product on so that no brush marks show. When priming, thicker is better. Because of atmospheric conditions, the first coat of primer should be applied on the same day that the steel is cleaned.
5. Apply two coats of the prescribed alkyd finish coat, leaving a total system of three coats over all metal and four coats over the worst spot-primed areas. The goal is to build up sufficient mil thickness in separate coats so as to minimize skips, holidays, and thin spots. When using an acrylic topcoat, repeat step 4 for two full coats of primer after spot priming.

While three coats over all metal and four coats over the worst areas may seem excessive, it has been proven that two coats as a system is insufficient for proper metal protection in Florida.

Because the variables of coating metal are so extreme, Scott Paint Company can make no guarantee of success as to the longevity of the system against rusting. However, by following this guideline, you will go a long way to having a totally sealed, moisture and salt resistant surface that may last for many years to your satisfaction.

Exception: Galvanized steel should never be primed with alkyd paints. Refer to the Scott Solutions sheet on painting galvanized steel.

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