



# SOLUTIONS

## PAINTING FACTORY PRIMED METAL DOORS

Many contractors are having problems with new, factory primed steel doors peeling relatively soon after painting. When inspected, virtually 100% of the peeled off chips indicate that it is not the topcoat paint peeling from the primer, but the factory primer peeling from the metal door. This peeling virtually 100% of the time occurs when the painter has selected an oil based enamel to go on top of the factory applied primer. From this evidence, it can be concluded that many of these factory applied primers, whether alkyd or water based, are typically of relatively high porosity and of questionable quality. It is Scott Paint's opinion that many of these primers are not of a sufficient quality to properly bond to the metal surface, and that the cleaning processes used by metal door manufacturers may be inadequate or inconsistent and can leave some oils and release agents on the surface to which no paint can properly adhere. An additional dilemma for painters is that when these factory primed doors are handled in the field, they can pick up grease and oil, as well as nicks and cuts that can cause little rust spots bleeding through water based enamels, leaving an unacceptable blemish. Additionally, many of these door manufacturers are now affixing a sticker to the doors stating their warranty policy which requires the use of latex paints, apparently recognizing the inability of their primers to withstand exposure to the solvent in an oil based paint. They will void the warranty if oil based paints are used.

### Solutions:

1. Regardless of the builder's or paint company's paint specifications, the sticker on the door must be followed in order to not void the door warranty.
2. In virtually all cases this will require the use of a water based paint system.
3. Wipe down the door with denatured alcohol only. Do not use naphtha, mineral spirits, or lacquer thinner. Examine the cleaned door for any nicks or cuts.
4. Gently touch up any nicks or cuts susceptible to spot rusting with Scott #941 Rust-Blok Alkyd Metal Primer and let dry.
5. Rub the touched up primer smooth utilizing synthetic steel wool and then wiping clean.
6. Apply the appropriate Scott Paint topcoat such as Scott Ultra 100% Acrylic Semi-Gloss #430 or Scott Allgrip Acrylic Semi-Gloss #435. In extreme salt air atmospheres such as beach front zones, it is recommended to reprime the entire door with Scott #4000 Hydron Industrial Metal Protective Primer, especially if the metal is galvanized, before topcoating.

Due to tradition and success, many painters choose to continue to use oil based enamels on these factory doors. This is risky and can violate the door manufacturer's warranty. It is Scott Paint's policy that due to the fact that we have no control over the factory primer application conditions, nor of the formulation of the primer, Scott Paint Company will accept no responsibility whatsoever for the peeling down to bare metal of any of its paints on metal exterior doors.

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**Corporate Office and Manufacturing Facility**

7839 Fruitville Road • Sarasota, Florida 34240 • (941) 371-0015 • Fax: (941) 378-0010 • [www.scottpaint.com](http://www.scottpaint.com)