



CLADDING & FAÇADE MATERIAL SELECTION

Zincalume Steel, By Bluescope Steel

ZINCALUME® steel

General Overview – All information below is directly from Bluescope Steel.

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Next generation ZINCALUME® steel's patented Activate™ technology introduces magnesium into the aluminium-zinc alloy coating, improving galvanic protection by *activating* the aluminium. The result is a tougher protective coating that's more resistant to scratches and scuffs encountered during construction.

The protective coating innovation also increases the product lifespan of next generation ZINCALUME® steel whilst using fewer metal resources. Compared to ZINCALUME® steel AZ150, next generation ZINCALUME® steel AM125 has a smaller environmental footprint^ in all 18 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) categories assessed.

Over a 17 year period, more than 5,000 panels have been tested in a wide variety of laboratory and 'real world' climatic conditions. Additionally 50 building sites, comprising a wide range of applications, as well as 5 purpose built test structures have been tested in the real world, including extreme marine environments. The result is confidence that next generation ZINCALUME® steel is more durable and more resilient.

From its launch in August 2013, roofing applications made from next generation ZINCALUME® steel will be backed by a warranty of up to 36 years, including warranties closer to marine environments.

Next generation ZINCALUME® steel is made only by BlueScope Steel and will be identified by its brand mark, which is printed on the steel. Check for the brand and you can be sure it meets AS1397, and the “deemed to satisfy” requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) for roofing and walling applications. Specify correctly by name – ZINCALUME® steel AM125.

Why Use Zincalume Steel?

- Zincalume Steel is a cost saving option as opposed to using Colorbond Steel. Zincalume is made by Bluescope Steel, specifically suited for Australian climates and environments, with thorough testing carried out.
- Zincalume Steel does not require painting or any additional coatings.
- Warranties associated with Zincalume Steel vary, depending on location, product, final use etc, but the warranties provided are always very good.
- Zincalume Steel is available in 0.55, 0.75 and 1.0mm thick BMT. This gives us the benefit to fabricate larger, wider & longer spanning panels when required.

Zincalume Steel For Cladding & Facades – Things To Consider

- Cost Saving is typically the number 1 reason behind all considerations when selecting Zincalume Steel over Colorbond Steel.
Where there is a cost saving on any product, there is always a compromise of some sort.
- Zincalume is a natural Silver / Mill finish, as opposed to Colorbond Steel, which is painted in a finish amongst the Bluescope Steel range.
- Painting is acceptable, but choosing a Colorbond Steel finish is much more beneficial & cost effective than painting the Zincalume Steel.
- Zincalume Steel coils are not supplied with any form of plastic coating or protection, as Colorbond Steel is with it's clear film.
- This is part of the cost saving process, along with the mill finish and no paint.
- Zincalume Steel has a natural / mill finish with no plastic coating, this opens up many more scenarios for minor damage concerns, as we go through every fabrication process required with an unprotected base metal.
The lack of protection, and multiple processes required, especially when interstate transport is involved, can cause a few minor problems, with “rub marks” being a popular thing we come across, especially when you have a third party courier / freight company involved.
- Water Damage / Staining – As Zincalume Steel is supplied with no plastic film, there is potential for water damage & staining to occur at certain times.

All coils are stored inside, out of the weather, at Bluescope Steels storage facility and at Architectural Panel Systems factory.

Being a raw, mill finish product, with no clear film protection, staining can occur when coils are being transported from the mill, to our factory.

Same scenario when we are delivering to site, particularly interstate, packages can be left outdoors at depots, and in the rain whilst on the truck and heading to site.

Small amounts of water, condensation etc can cause water damage to panels in a short period of time.

This is partly because there is no plastic film to cover the panels, like Colorbond Steel has, hence the part of the cost saving involved.

All measures are taken to avoid this happening, but again, it cannot be a 100% guarantee.

We commonly see deliveries on site unloaded and not unpacked, waiting until they're ready for use, and this short time frame also is plenty of time to begin staining & water damage taking place.

- Replacements of damaged panels, caused by the shipping process will need to be discussed between Architectural Panel Systems Aust. and the customer.

We cannot offer replacement panels when Interstate Transport is involved.

This will need to be discussed & agreed upon by both parties how to deal with this shall it arise.

- Damaged & Replacement panels are to be discussed via manufacturer & customer.

The shipping company will not get involved, and they make this very clear from day 1, it's none of their concern unfortunately.

- Zinalume Steel (with it having no clear or plastic film),

Transport, Couriers & Freight – Local & Interstate – Things To Consider

- All Local projects (which is basically anything within Victoria) will be delivered direct to site by our own personal staff and company vehicles & trucks. This is always our preference, and occasionally deliveries just outside of Victoria will be on our own fleet of trucks also.
- All Interstate deliveries, we like to recommend that if the customer has an existing relationship or account with a courier / freight company, that they consider using them over our freight company, especially if you are happy and confident in their past work.
- Interstate deliveries are provided generally as a convenience to the customer.

- Typically, all courier / freight companies are more concerned with volume and filling their loads than they are protecting the product being delivered.
This is common amongst almost all companies we have trialed.
- Interstate deliveries are carried out by a 3rd party, transport company.
After many years of trial & error, we have settled with a company who does all of our deliveries interstate, with a great success rate for time frames and arriving to site in good condition.
- Interstate deliveries carry a risk of damage occurring, which is increased naturally as the distance to site increases.
- Lost Packages – Due to the number of products going in and out of the depot's, right across the country. Packages can become misplaced & lost.
We're made of this right away, and they will generally have a 48 hour period where they'll try and source the lost package, however, once this time elapses, it's marked as lost, and they stop searching. It's common for packages to show up days, weeks and even months later.
Usually by this stage, the whole order is remade and sent already.
Again, they do not take any responsibility for misplaced or lost packages.
We cannot offer immediate replacements at no charge in the event of this happening at any stage.
- Warranties / Cover – All couriers & freight companies operate in a way that they do not and will not provide any form of insurance or guarantee on the products they are transporting. The risk is 100% on behalf of all other parties.
- Please note: We can not offer any warranty or guarantee on anything delivered by a 3rd party, transport company or courier. If this is required, there is only 2 options for this to be made possible...
 - a.) The customer can organise their own transport or freight with their own company they are happy to use.
 - b.) If we are made aware of warranty or guarantee requests, this will need to be done well prior to the job beginning, so we can consider independent, project specific guarantees by a third party.
- We can request top load for all deliveries, but this still does not guarantee its protection all the way to site.
- Forklift and loading / unloading damage can occur.
- Interstate deliveries are packaged in the best way possible to avoid any of these issues, but they are not a guarantee.

Additional Notes

- Section 1 of this document is direct information provided by Bluescope Steel.
- Section 2, all of the dot points and sections above, this is all information based on our personal experience.
- For further information on something specific or technical data or documents, please request via email.

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