



VM ZINC MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATION

Zinc is a very low maintenance material as it is not sensitive to corrosion: it protects itself by developing a patina that gives it an exceptionally long life span. Zinc continues to develop its protective layer throughout its life and will self-repair imperfections and scratches.

VM ZINC protection during installation

Before Installing VM ZINC®

The roofer must ensure that: the structure is dry, clean and free of any rubbish (nails, leaves, vegetation, etc.). The roof plywood nails are countersunk in order to avoid any contact with the VM ZINC®. The screws are countersunk into the wooden substrate to avoid any contact with the VM ZINC®. The structure conforms (flatness, compatibility, etc.) to the specifications.

Transportation and storage of profiled VM ZINC®

VM ZINC® must be transported and stored in dry conditions and in a constant temperature in order to avoid the formation of white rust.

White rust forms on the surface of VM ZINC® when the latter comes in contact with humidity in the absence of carbon dioxide. In this case, the protective layer cannot form and white rust appears on the surface. Unlike the patina layer, white rust provides no protection and leaves unattractive, indelible marks on the roof or facade. Consequently, we do not recommend installing panels that have been attacked by white rust.

Moving around on the VM ZINC® during and after installation on the roof

As a general rule, moving around on already installed VM ZINC®, is to be avoided even if the latter is protected by film. As stated in the section on crimping, it is preferable to crimp the panels as they are installed. This also avoids unnecessary traffic on the panels that have already been laid. However, if it is necessary to walk on the zinc, we strongly advise moving around using specially designed ladders and wearing safety shoes made for slippery surfaces as Natural VM ZINC®, bilacquered VM ZINC® and pre-weathered VM ZINC® are slippery whether they are covered by film or not, particularly when they are wet. In any case, obey the building site safety standards in force and as a minimum make sure you are always secured by a safety harness.

The VM ZINC® fitted should be protected during peripheral works (rough casting, tuck-pointing, rendering, etc). However, this protection must allow effective ventilation of the upper surface of the VM ZINC®.

Protective film

Most VM ZINC® products are shipped with a protective film. The product should be installed with the protective film in place to help prevent scratches. However, the film should be removed promptly after installation since the film is not UV resistant and residues of the adhesives may remain on the metal. Umicore Building Products recommends that the protective film be removed no later than six weeks from the date of installation.

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VM ZINC Maintenance

Dirt

If dirt accumulates on the zinc during the installation process, it should be gently removed with a clean/dry cloth. Do not allow cleaner to attempt to use cleaning products or rub hard to remove any dirt. Remember that the patina has a self-healing nature. The dirt will be removed over time with natural rain water.

Grease and oily marks

In case of grease or oily marks, use acetone to remove them. Acetone is a volatile product. So please: Wait for good weather, the zinc panels have to be perfectly dry and cool – don't wait for hot temperatures as heat is not good with acetone - Clean the whole panel with a very clean cotton cloth - Don't scratch the zinc.

Scratches

If a scratch appears during the installation process, you should reassure the client that the self-healing patina will minimise the effects of the scratch over time. If the scratch is especially deep or wide then the panel may need to be replaced. Generally, scratches are expected and are self-correcting.

Fingerprints

Fingerprinting can be noticeable on wall applications. Because of the "self-healing" nature of zinc, fingerprints will be obscured by the formation of the patina over time. To remove them quickly, use mineral oil available from Umicore Building Products. Some mineral oils may react adversely to the zinc so be sure to use only VM ZINC® specified mineral oil.

Salt Deposit

In exposed area, salt laden water may be blown into the joints, where it will evaporate and leave behind a white residue. Normally rainwater itself is enough to wash away or reduce these deposits. In case of periods without rain, or for soffits that are not washed by the rain, we just recommend to wash the zinc with hot water on a regular basis. In case of salt build up that cannot be removed by water, please be aware that these salt deposits do not compromise the integrity of the material and are not causing corrosion. The Anthra Zinc finish is not recommended on the sea front.

Colour variations

Zinc is a natural material. Slight colour variations between panels are common and expected at the early stage of the project. However, colour differential will be minimized over time by the continuous formation of the protective patina causing a smooth effect. The panels colour will, month after month, become more uniform and homogeneous. To ensure a consistent finish we recommend profiling and installing the components of a new project using a parent coil.

Flatness

A distinctive advantage of zinc is its malleability. The inherent softness of the material and its ductility allow it to be shaped into almost any form. Some waviness especially with low thickness may occur and can be more apparent during certain times of the day based upon the angle at which the sunlight hits the cladding or the roof. This is the intrinsic characteristic of the zinc and is part of the aesthetic appearance of the material which has been used for centuries.

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