

CORROSION

FOLLOWING TRADES

TECHNICAL BULLETIN CTB-17

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This issue supersedes all previous issues

There have been many occasions when a competently installed roof, on which the roof fixer has observed all of the correct procedures, has been ruined by the irresponsible negligence of others.

Typical instances of this have been, the use of incorrect flashing or sealing materials associated with retro fitted equipment and the later inclusion of brickwork parapets around otherwise completed metal roofs.

Careless placement of feet, the spillage of mortar and excessive point loads on roof sections which lead to perforation, are commonly observed and are to be deplored.

The installation of surface mounted roof air conditioning units on copper/chrome/arsenic (CCA) treated timber or green hardwood dunnage and the installation of roof walkway systems similarly mounted on this style of timber dunnage must be avoided. Corrosion of the under lying roof sheeting in contact with the timber will be dramatically accelerated by the wet poultice and contaminants created by such poor practice.

Technical Bulletin TB5 "Swarf Staining of Steel Roofing and Walling Profiles" refers to the removal of swarf particles which arise from poor building/trades practice. Whilst the creation of swarf should be prevented from initially occurring, any sheeting affected by swarf must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the corrosion staining of the roof sheeting. Such clean up procedures must be carried out on a daily basis. All discarded pop rivet mandrels, fasteners and material off-cuts must be removed from the roof surface to prevent both staining and future corrosion.

The information and advice contained in this Bulletin is of a general nature only, and has not been prepared with your specific needs in mind. You should always obtain specialist advice to ensure that the materials, approach and techniques referred to in this Bulletin meet your specific requirements.

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BlueScope Steel Limited ABN 16 000 011 058
BlueScope Steel (AIS) Pty Ltd ABN 19 000 019 625



| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| AUSTRALIA | SYDNEY | Telephone: (02) 9795 6700 |
| | MELBOURNE | Telephone: (03) 9586 2222 |
| | BRISBANE | Telephone: (07) 3845 9300 |
| | ADELAIDE | Telephone: (08) 8243 7333 |
| | PERTH | Telephone: (08) 9330 0666 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| OVERSEAS | BlueScope Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd | Telephone: (603) 3250 8333 |
| | BlueScope Steel (Thailand) Limited | Telephone: (66 38) 685 710 |
| | PT BlueScope Steel Indonesia | Telephone: (62 21) 570 7564 |
| | BlueScope Steel Southern Africa (Pty) Limited | Telephone: (27 21) 555 4265 |
| | | |



Figure 1: CCA Treated Timber Walkway

Copper penetrations such as sullage/sewerage vent pipes which penetrate the roof sheeting are often found to be associated with commercial construction. This type of penetration must be post painted to prevent the deposition of metallic copper ions upon the roof surface. Such deposition will ultimately lead to penetration of the roof sheeting.

Similar contamination from copper lightning conductors, water supply pipes and other process vents can lead to severe corrosion of the roof sheeting if the units are not insulated and similarly post painted.

