



Sheet Storage & Handling Guidelines

1. Keep Dry

It is essential that stacks of sheets are kept dry since moisture can easily be trapped between sheets by capillary action resulting in rapid corrosion. Even if stacks of sheets cannot always be stored inside, care should be taken to keep them dry, including avoiding the possibility of condensation. Never rely on paper or plastic wrapping to keep sheets dry – these are not designed to keep out water and can even cause more problems by not allowing moisture to escape. It is always important to ensure good ventilation to avoid build-ups of water vapor and ensure that any water has a chance to dry out.

2. Avoid Handling damage

Sheets should be treated with care. It is important that storage be arranged with plenty of space to allow for movement without any risk of damage. When removing sheets from a stack, never drag them off since this can scratch the sheet underneath.

3. Store inside

The easiest way to ensure that the material is kept dry is to always have an internal storage to protect the material from adverse weather conditions. If it is not possible to store sheets at a constant temperature, then the operator should always be vigilant to avoid rapid temperature changes (such as taking material from an unheated warehouse at 0°C to a heated one at 20°C) which could lead to condensation on the steel.

4. Use Promptly

As with any material, the properties of prepainted steel change slowly over time. In particular, some products will harden over time, resulting in a loss of flexibility for forming. In addition, if a protective strippable film is applied, the material needs using promptly to avoid the likelihood of adhesive residues being left in place. A good general guideline is to use all material within 6 months of manufacture and to help with this a First – In – First - Out (FIFO) stock rotation system is recommended.

5. Take Care over Storage

Bundles of sheets are generally delivered and stored on a framework of wooden battens. It is important to ensure that these battens remain in good condition and they remain vertical to ensure their correct loading and the avoidance of pressure-spots. If the stack is removed from the original packaging, it is important to ensure that it is adequately supported and never placed directly onto the ground.

6. Limit the height of sheet stacks

It is often necessary to stack packs of sheet on top of each other. However, care should be taken since this will increase the amount of handling required to access different sheets. The height of stacks should be limited to avoid excessive pressure being applied to those at the bottom. Some products are particularly susceptible to marking from this pressure and advice should be sought from the manufacturer for these cases. Where multiple bundles of sheets are stacked, care should be taken to align the timber bearers on successive packs.

7. Handle with care

It is advisable, wherever possible; to use suction or magnetic lifting devices to lift sheets from packs and where this is not possible, sheets should never be dragged from packs, which could result in scratching. It is also advisable, where possible, to handle sheets on the reverse side so that any damage does not affect the appearance of the finished products.