



HYDRO

4. STORAGE AND HANDLING OF HYDROCOAT PREFINISHED ALUMINIUM

GENERAL

This section provides information to enable customers to obtain the optimum benefits from using pre-coated aluminum coil and sheet manufactured by Hydro Aluminum Rolled Products AS.

This publication can only serve as a guideline for customers, but our technical staff will be pleased to offer advice and assistance in any of these areas

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Sheet and coil should be stored indoors under conditions that will minimize the possibility of condensation due to temperature fluctuations.

Stacks of sheet and coil should be covered in waterproof material, but must be well ventilated to prevent the formation of condensation. During wintertime, care must be taken to ensure that stacks of sheet and coil do not freeze if there is any risk that water may have become trapped.

If coils are kept on the floor, the floor must be clean and ideally coil should be placed on to a resilient pad, such as carpet, felt or rubber

When lifting packs of sheet, care should be taken to prevent undue sagging of the pack to ensure that the coating surface does not become damaged or the flatness of the sheet destroyed

When lifting coils, the inner laps may become damaged if sharp forks are in direct contact with the aluminium and similarly slings may damage the "corners" where they make contact if precautions are not taken.

In unwinding coil or in handling sheet, it must be remembered that the coil has a high quality coating on the surface and care must be taken to prevent sliding of one face over the other which may cause scuffing of the finish.

If on unpacking sheet or coil, dull or shiny "pressure marks" are visible, these are purely superficial and do

not in any way impair the performance of the product. Treatment with warm air between 60° and 80°C or exposure to normal weather will normally restore the appearance.

A system of FIFO (First In First Out) should be used, as some coatings might harden and lose flexibility over a period of time. **Advised maximum storage life is 6 months.**

Coatings are thermoplastic they get soft at high temperatures and brittle at low temperatures Processing of coil-coated aluminum must be done in acclimatized production areas with ambient temperatures or preheated to temperatures above 18 deg C in order to avoid cracking of the coating during forming.

PROTECTIVE FOIL

The use of a temporary protective polyethylene film that is removed after fabrication may help to avoid problems such as dirt pick-up during forming. Hydro Aluminum Rolled Products AS can provide sheet and coil already coated with this type of film, or can provide advice on suitable products if the customer has his own film applicator.

In case of material supplied with protective foil, this must be removed **within 6 months after delivery.**

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