



# Panel Coating Information

& recommendations for using our  
panels as a splashback

## The Ultimate Finish-

Our most recommended finish for using **aluminium** or **galvanised** panels in a splashback\* situation is powder coating. \*Kitchen, laundry, vanity, shower recess etc.

The aluminium and galvanised panels in their raw state are 'non ferrous' and will therefore absorb fat, oils, grease (even fingerprints), plus soap scum & water marks.

Whilst **aluminium** and **galvanised** panels won't rust, over time these absorbed elements will change the look of the panels and are difficult to clean. We therefore recommend a protective coating be applied to the panels.

Powder coating ensures protection of the metal against fats, oils, grease, soap scum and moisture. It is an affordable, long lasting and durable coating. It also covers 100% of any surface scratches that may be present, as a result of manufacturing & handling\*\*

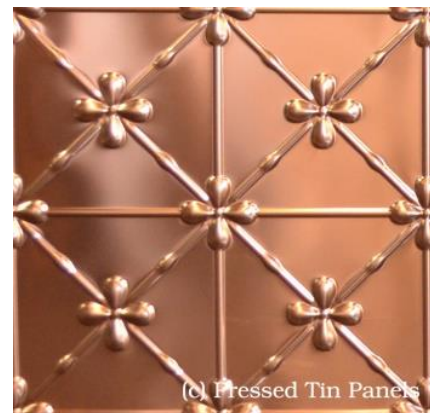
When panels are powder coated and installed as per our installation guides, they are suitable for use behind cook tops and heaters, are very easy to clean and provide a completely waterproof splashback area. We are proud to be able to recommend and supply panels finished with Dulux and Interpon brand Powder Coating. There are many colour choices including metallic silver, which have been a good compromise for other clients who are keen on a raw 'metal-look' but want the ease and peace of mind the powder coating brings.

NB. Some paints and other coatings may do a similar job however we are not paint specialists and information on other coatings would need to be gained by you independently.

**CARE & MAINTENANCE** To retain the Gloss finish on your Powder Coated Splashback, do not use any abrasive cleaners or scourers. The best option is hot soapy water or hot water and Metho or Eucalyptus oil with a Micro-fibre cloth. Simply wipe over the area regularly and it will look great for years to come.

## Copper Panels -

More so than the aluminium panels, copper panels are also 'non ferrous' and in addition to fat, oils, grease, fingerprints, soap scum & water, exposure to air alone will cause the copper panels to naturally discolour or 'patina' over time.



## **'What if I Want The Raw 'Metal-Look' but need protection?'**

While we don't recommend using unprotected or 'raw' aluminium or galvanised panels as a kitchen splashback or within other wet areas (shower recess, laundry etc), we certainly understand the desire to retain the raw 'metal-look' and yes it can be achieved! A clear powder coat is often available through powder coating businesses. Unfortunately we cannot provide that option for you. Our recommendation is to discuss clear coating with your local powder coater.

Another form of protective coating for the **aluminium, galvanised** or **copper** panels is a DIY spray or brush-on clear guard, that is suitable to these metals. These coatings are a tough, protective coating formulated to effectively seal non-ferrous metal surfaces, stopping corrosion and tarnishing.

There are many brands of metal-suitable clear coat available, however a couple in which we have had experience with are the White Knight & Wattyl brands of clear guard and lacquer finishes.

To use these products on our panels we recommend to clean off any finger prints/marks with methylated spirits or specially formulated aluminium, galvanised or copper cleaner (contact us for more information). Then simply follow the instructions of your selected product.

**NB: For copper panels we highly recommend wearing cotton gloves when handling raw panels.**



### **Other Things To Consider:**

-For an even brighter metal look, prior to clear coating you can **polish** aluminium, galvanised or copper panels. Please contact us for our separate polishing information guide.

-Whilst a lot of our patterns are 'bi-directional' (can be installed horizontal or vertical and will still pattern match), the panels do have a 'grain' so will therefore show a different 'colour' when two panels are installed or placed together with their grains running in different directions.

-Our aluminium products are acid washed (making them etch primed ready for painting) this however may make one panel appear slightly different in colour to another if the panels were washed in different batches (this is simply due to changes in chemical composition between washing batches)

-Our galvanised and copper products are un-etched. To coat galvanised panels a metal etch primer is required prior to top coating.

\*\*Unavoidable surface scratching will appear on the panels from handling during the manufacturing process. Applying a clear coat will protect the panels from aforementioned substances, however will not cover the scratches. Polishing is an option here, however while polishing will not completely remove all the surface scratches, the overall appearance of them is significantly reduced. Please contact us for our separate polishing information guide.

-Please bear in mind this information is a guide only, we have had many clients experiment with applying different coatings and even oils directly onto the aluminium and galvanised panels to form a protective barrier.