

Compatibility with other materials

Important considerations

When placed in contact with zinc, certain products can have detrimental effects on the appearance and/or structural integrity of the zinc. Acidic products and products that can generate a galvanic reaction must not be used with zinc. Run-off from non compatible products onto zinc also must be avoided. In general, products with a pH lower than 5 and higher than 7 are not compatible with zinc.

There are no issues with zinc in combination with metals other than copper and mild steel. When zinc is in contact with copper in the presence of an electrolyte (such as water) a galvanic reaction will lead to corrosion of the zinc and subsequent failure of the roof or wall cladding.

Run-off from a copper surface to a zinc surface must be avoided under all circumstances. Zinc in contact with mild (carbon) steel is not desirable either, due to similar electron transfers between the metal that will result in zinc corrosion and deterioration.

Zinc can be installed adjacent to limestone. The run-off from limestone onto zinc material is acceptable. However, limestone dust and gypsum dust generated during cutting operations can react with zinc in the presence of water and form a superficial layer of white rust. No dust should be in contact with unprotected zinc. To prevent white rust, good construction practices should be used to limit the amount of dust that comes in contact with the zinc.



Compatible contact products
Metals
Lead
Aluminium (painted, anodised or bare)
Galvanised steel
Stainless steel
Woods
Pine
Spruce
Scots pine
Poplar
Miscellaneous materials
Polyurethane
Non-acetic silicones
MS polymer mastics
Organic timber treatments

Incompatible contact products & run-off*
Metals
Copper
Steel (non-galvanised)
Gypsum dust/limestone dust
Woods
Larch
Oak
Chestnut
Red cedar
Douglas fir
White cedar
All woods with a pH < 5
Miscellaneous materials
Mortar
Building paper
Bituminous membranes
Fire retardant & preservative treatments
Acidic cleaners (brick cleaner etc)
Acetic silicones
Metal salt timber treatments

* This list is not exhaustive