



Storage of pre-painted steel products

Best practices to ensure long-lasting performance

During its life, a pre-painted steel product undergoes various storage phases. To avoid damage to coatings and the substrate, storage conditions must be carefully monitored. This leaflet provides mandatory guidance for the storage of pre-painted steel coils or formed products. By following these guidelines closely, you will ensure their long-lasting performance.

Main recommendations:

Store inside

Keep dry

Avoid condensation

Use promptly

Store inside

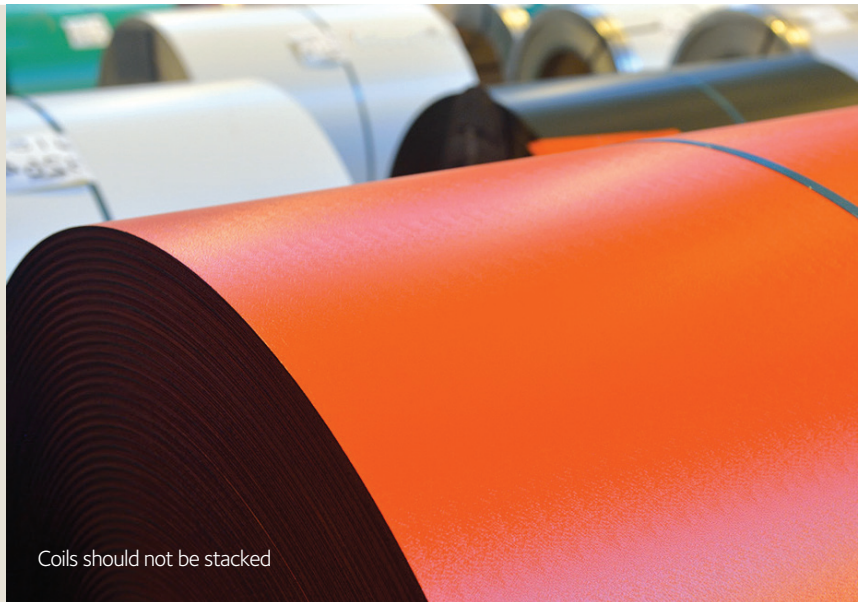
The best way to ensure coils keep their initial aspect and properties is to store them inside so that premature weathering is avoided. The same rule applies to formed pre-painted steel products.

Keep dry

If the coils cannot be stored inside, specific care should be taken to ensure they remain dry. Check that there is good ventilation to avoid a build-up of moisture between coil laps.



If formed products cannot be kept inside, store the panels on a slope. This ensures water can flow out of panel bundles. Limit the amount of time the products are stored as much as possible. ArcelorMittal recommends storing formed products outside for no longer than two weeks.



Coils should not be stacked



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Avoid condensation

If it is not possible to store coils in a room kept at a constant temperature, then quick temperature changes (for example, loading coils inside a heated warehouse) must be avoided to prevent water deposition through condensation. Good ventilation is required.

As for coils, rapid temperature changes may induce condensation between stacked sheets or panels. This can eventually lead to premature corrosion of the sheets.

If the temperature of the transport and/or storage is lower than 20°C, the material must be transferred to a location at this temperature at least 24 hours prior to processing. This is usually long enough to counter heat inertia and the time required to reheat the steel. However, this can vary depending on the ambient temperature and the thickness of the steel.

Use promptly

As the properties of a material can evolve slowly over time, ArcelorMittal recommends coils are used quickly. Maximum storage time should be six months after delivery. In the case of a product delivered with a protective film, this time is reduced to three months to avoid the chance adhesive residues will stick to the paint. Protective films also reduce the ability of pre-painted coatings to breathe.

The same rules apply to formed products.

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