



**Dulux**<sup>®</sup>



**Acratex**<sup>®</sup>

# Care & Maintenance Guide

EXTERIOR COATINGS



The background of the page is a photograph of a modern, two-story house. The house features a white facade, large glass windows, and a balcony with a wooden pergola. The ground floor has a dark grey wall with diagonal shadows and a large glass door. The foreground shows a paved patio area with green plants and a large rock.

**Congratulations on coating your home with Dulux® Acratex®** We would like to offer some tips on caring for the exterior coatings on your home so that you can extend the life of the coatings and help in maintaining the value of your investment.

## How to care for your Acratex® exterior coatings

### How do you extend the life of your exterior?

In order to maintain the appearance of your *Dulux Acratex* coating system, it is recommended that the coating is cleaned annually.

### Why is cleaning important?

Cleaning removes light soil as well as grime and airborne pollutants. Joint sealants should be regularly checked to ensure there is no cracking to prevent water ingress. Where cracking is evident, sealant will need to be replaced immediately.

### Cleaning the exterior

- Use a low-pressure water blast (less than 450psi) using a fanjet of cold water at a 45 degree angle from the wall (not perpendicular). The water blast's fan should be kept a minimum of 30cm away from the surface of the coating to avoid damage or, use a solution of detergent and warm water using a soft brush.
- Grime or ingrained dirt can be removed with a scrubbing brush and solution of detergent and warm water. DO NOT use a high-pressure water blaster for this.

### Regular checks to complete on your exterior

1. Look for cracked, loose or missing sealants. Sealant will be found in areas where different substrates meet (i.e. above door openings and windows, pipes, where walls meet the soffit line and where electrical fittings and handrails have been attached to walls). Control joints should also be inspected. All deteriorated and damaged sealant should be removed and replaced as soon as it is apparent. *Dulux Acratex* recommend that a paintable polyurethane sealant be used.

2. Monitor areas that are heavily exposed to the elements (i.e. balconies and handrail tops). Due to the minimal slope of these areas, they hold dirt and grime which can lead to mould if not regularly washed. These areas should also be checked for movement over time due to thermal movement so it is critical that they are inspected and maintained.
3. Always check areas that are cold and dark (i.e. behind heavy foliage). Dirt can exacerbate mould and algae growth and therefore will cause your texture to deteriorate very quickly if not regularly cleaned.

### What do you do if you find a crack?

1. If accidental damage occurs, please contact your local renderer or phone *Dulux Acratex* Customer Service on 13 23 77. They will provide the support and technical expertise required to help solve the problem. The damaged wall area will need to be recoated from edge to edge to ensure texture and colour consistency. Visual cracks may indicate underlying structural problems so a professional should always inspect them.
2. To temporarily fill a crack, a paintable polyurethane sealant can be used to fill these until the inspection has occurred and permanent repairs are completed.

### How to refresh your coating

Recoating is recommended after a minimum of 7 to 10 years to rejuvenate the surface appearance. This can be done by using *Dulux Acratex* elastometric top coat protective membrane, such as *AcraShield®* or *AcraSkin®* to selected *Dulux Acratex* colours to protect it from air pollutants, water ingress and dirt accumulation to provide a new low maintenance surface. This will product will need to be applied by your local renderer.

## Rust staining in render & texture

### What is rust staining in render

"Rust or Iron Staining" is the resultant brownish spot or streak (often described as "RUST") occasionally seen in raw and coated rendered finishes. The surface stain is a by-product of metal corroding (rust) or non metallic iron compounds in the render sand/aggregate that erode on exposure (oxidation). All exterior coated surfaces are affected by natural weathering, and dependent on the form of iron present (how reactive it is), the coating system & preparation employed and site exposure conditions, iron staining may occur requiring maintenance.

### Solution

Where iron staining is identified as corrosion of underlying metal fixings, removal of the coating system to expose and correct the underlying metal rust is recommended. Where iron staining is identified as weathering of embedded metal swarf or naturally occurring minerals in the render dependent on severity the following remedial action is recommended.

### Remove the offending contaminant

*Dulux Acratex* recommends that you contact your local licensed renderer to assist with the identification, removal and repairs of rust staining in your render.

### Treat the surface iron stain

Apply a suitable weak oxalic or other mineral acid based rust stain treatment to the area following manufacturers recommendations (eg *Diggers®* Rust & Stain Cleaner, or

*CLR®* Calcium, Lime & Rust Remover). First test the surface with a low dilution in fresh clean water as the solution will have a bleaching effect on the surface. Multiple dilute applications to treat the stain is preferable to strong solutions, which may also bleach the coating colour.

### Touch-up or painting a repaired area

*Acratex* recommends the application of a full 3 coat system (Primer, Texture & Membrane Topcoat) for maximum durability and extended performance.

If the original installed system was not protected with a membrane top coat, *Acratex* recommends repainting the entire project with 2 coats of *AcraShield* or *AcraSkin* weatherproofing topcoat. This will ensure that the whole project has an even finish and protection. It is recommended that all works are carried out by a professional.



# Why can deep colours be problematic?

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## **Colour Durability**

This is defined as the resistance of the coating to change colour or fade on exposure to the elements. Generally speaking, darker coloured paints absorb more UV rays than lighter coloured paints thereby putting more stress on the paint system and the substrate.

One of the many factors that influence paint durability is choice of colour. Different colours have differing light stability. Whites have the greatest stability to UV degradation where deep hue colours especially reds & yellows are traditionally the most UV sensitive and therefore fade more readily.

## **Surface Imperfections**

The combination of low 'Light Reflectance Value' (LRV) deep, bold, dark or vibrant colours, used in conjunction with low sheen level paint, means less light is reflected (more is scattered) hence any surface abrasions & imperfections, especially on internal surfaces, become more visible because they look shiny.

## **Heat Absorption**

Deep, bold, dark or vibrant colours have a lower LRV and reflect less light but also absorb more heat than lighter colours. This can have a detrimental effect in several ways. Hotter surfaces will cause the substrate to expand and contract more than cooler surfaces, thereby placing significantly more stress on the paint coating itself and underlying substrate.

Some building materials actually specify a minimum LRV for the colour used, under which substrate performance will be compromised and the manufacturers' warranty becomes null and void.

