

Painting Guidelines for Cast Iron radiators

The Radiator Company cast iron radiators are supplied with a protective primer coating that will inhibit the formation of rust if the Radiators are dry stored correctly. Radiators will rust if they become wet. **THIS PROTECTIVE COATING IS A PRIMER, NOT AN UNDERCOAT**

All our Cast Iron radiators hold a minimum of a 10 Year warranty (Priory has a 20 year warranty) as they are sold by The Radiator Company. The Radiator Company will not accept liability for any damage caused by incorrect painting or installation after sale.

Please read these painting instructions carefully prior to installation. Failure to do so will invalidate the warranty.

- 1. As part of the manufacturing process cast radiators are pressure tested and a small amount of residual water may be present in the radiator, care must be taken to avoid any of this damaging any finished floor covering.
- 2. It should be noted that cast iron radiators are produced using traditional casting methods and may have a rough finish and some casting nibs. Before painting these nibs can be removed to improve the finish.
- 3. For a superior, long lasting finish we recommend that a protective coat of zinc based rust inhibitor is used as a primer. This may be applied by brush or spray and must be compatible with the undercoat and final finish to be used. Any Paint must be applied in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- 4. When painting your radiators topcoats and undercoats must NEVER be WATER BASED or EMULSION type. Be careful in selecting undercoats as some modern formulations are water based even though they are intended for use with oil based topcoats. Water based paint will create rust pockets that will grow and become unsightly. Radiators may be finished with most domestic paints that are formulated to withstand temperatures up to 100°C. Spray paints used for car bodywork are also suitable if they are not water based. Paint odours may be emitted during painting and when the radiator heats up for the first few times. Adequate ventilation should be provided
- 5. We recommend using a matt finish on cast iron to produce the best results, Metallic paints with a 'hammer' finish also generally enhance the appearance of cast iron surfaces. The finish coat may be a plain pigment or a metallic paint, but there will be a loss of heat emission if a metallic paint is used.
- 6. Painting radiators 'in situ' against a wall is not recommended as the entire surface cannot be covered and there is a high risk of rust formation on unpainted surfaces. Before painting mount the radiators in their final position to complete and check all pipe connections. When all installation work has been completed, disconnect the pipework and remove the radiators from the wall. Cast Iron radiators are heavy and cumbersome to move, so it is advisable to paint each radiator close to where it is being installed if possible. If painted off site care must be taken to avoid damaging the finish when being reinstalled
- 7. Stand or lay the radiators on wooden chocks. For safety, the radiators must be supported whilst standing up, but it will be necessary to turn them over to examine and treat all surfaces

The advice of a paint specialist should be sought if you have any concerns relating to the paint finish you should use.

POWDER COATING processes can cause the sealing gaskets between each section to fail and the radiator to leak due to the heat from the baking ovens which can be in excess of 200°C. There are some new low bake powders which are cured at lower temperatures which reduce the risk of leaks and some finishers may be able to process at lower temperatures. Some wet spray painting systems use lower baking temperatures and are less likely to cause leaks, however any radiators put through the powder coating process will be at the purchaser's risk.