

BUILDER'S MATE

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How to avoid a rusty roof

True or false: rainwater will cause rust on unpainted metal if it first passes over glass, plastic, or a painted surface. Amazingly, it's true. It's a process called 'inert catchment', and it's a most surprising phenomenon.

It affects galvanised steel roofing particularly, but can also occur to a lesser extent with uncoated zinc/aluminium alloy coated steel roofing. It doesn't occur with factory-coated aluminium roofing. Fortunately, as today's metal roofing is usually factory-coated we don't see as many examples of it. But you might unwittingly set yourself up for rust if you're putting a glass skylight or some acrylic roofing into an existing roof, if you paint part of an

old steel roof but don't paint all of it, or if you replace metal rainwater pipes which discharge onto a lower unpainted roof with PVC pipes.

So how does inert catchment lead to rust? The answer is complex, but basically rainwater is slightly acidic and it contains some carbon dioxide which is mildly reactive to zinc. This isn't a problem until it runs over or through an inert material before hitting the zinc-containing material.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Licensed builders get their cards

Identification cards were sent to the first builders and designers registered as "Licensed Building Practitioners" in March.

The Register of Licensed Building Practitioners was also launched. The Department of Building and Housing will encourage members of the public to use licensed practitioners when they are getting work done.

The licensing scheme has been implemented to raise standards in the building industry by making sure that builders responsible for work done are competent and accountable. It also aims to give a lift to consumer confidence.

You don't need formal qualifications to get a licence. The Minister for Building and Industry, Shane Jones, has said that the scheme "gives good builders, who are not paper qualified, a real opportunity to be recognised for the great work they do."

Once you have a licence you will need to renew it each year, and are required to show that you are keeping up with changes in the building industry.

If you don't get a licence you can still work in the industry, but with restricted work you'll need to be supervised.

HAMMER 'N' NAILS



Win!

An Arges Rotary Hammer Drill
worth almost **\$200**





Many people have inserted plastic corrugate into the verandah roofs of old villas to let more light in the windows. This photograph shows why this could lead to problems if not done properly.

These inert materials include:

- glazed terracotta tiles
- glass
- fibreglass
- plastics
- colour-coated steel
- painted roofing.

Unpainted material will rust relatively quickly if rainwater first runs over one of the materials

on this list. Unpainted onto unpainted is fine, painted (inert) onto painted is fine, but painted or glass onto unpainted isn't.

Look at the photographs from the BRANZ exposure area. In the main picture on page 1, rainwater which passes over painted galvanised roofing onto unpainted roofing causes rust, but there is no problem if the top roof area is unpainted.

Left, rainwater which passes over plastic roofing onto steel causes rust, but where it doesn't, there is no rust. (There's also another process going on here which accelerates the problem: hydrochloric acid is produced as the surface of the PVC is degraded by sunlight, and this is carried in the rainwater onto the lower metal.)

There are several ways of avoiding the rust caused by inert catchment. To avoid the problem in the photograph on page 1, just paint the lower surface.

Another way to avoid the problem is to ensure that if you use inert material such as acrylic sheeting together with galvanised steel cladding, you run the inert cladding the full length down the roof. You must ensure that rainwater from it runs into plastic or pre-painted or coated steel gutters, and not galvanised gutters.

Dribblings from the Old Geezer



Relationships are important to keep right, so you should be nice to your building official. Why? For many reasons. I am not suggesting that by being nice you'll be treated in a more lenient way, but I have always thought it is prudent to strike up a good relationship with the 'judiciary'. As a young rugby captain I always introduced myself and was polite to the referee before the game. It probably didn't win us any more games, but it might have – you never know.

I am not suggesting that you become a 'greaser', but if you don't have a relationship, you won't get half the info that you will if you do. Your building inspector is the one with the knowledge and his or her finger on the pulse.

Sadly, I know that a lot of you think you are too busy to keep up with all the changes. "If it is important, the TA will tell me what to do!" you say. That's hardly fair, even if it contains a bit of truth. Just as there is a lot happening for you, so there is for the officials. They are in the middle of registration and accreditation. Why not have a yarn with them about it. You might find a lot of common ground and you may even learn something from each other.

Des Molloy

BRANZ

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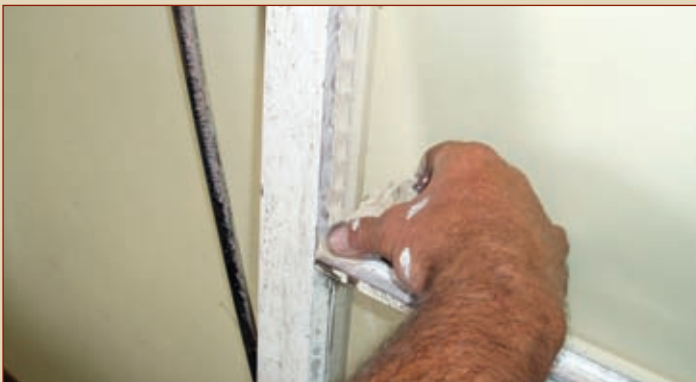
At a glance

Putting in Glass – Step by Step



Step 1

After removing old glass and cleaning up the rebate, prime with oil-based primer to stop the putty drying out prematurely.



Step 2

Thumb in a bedding for the glass, taking care to make it an even thickness.



Step 3

Bed the glass by pressing firmly, and visually check that the spread of back putty is complete against the glass.



Step 4

Sprig the glass in place with a proprietary gun or by hand using a putty knife.



Step 5

Firmly press in place the front putty.



Step 6

Cut off the back putty, then form the front slope with a putty knife making the edge on the glass approx 2 mm inside the 'sight line' formed by the back of the rebate.



Step 7

Use whiting powder on a brush to clean up and assist in the final bedding of the putty.

After the putty has 'skinned', paint over to the 'sight line'. It is important to have a paint film across the putty onto the glass.

COMPETITION Win!



An Arges Rotary Hammer Drill

Worth almost \$200!

The new Arges Rotary Hammer Drill comes in a carry case with a range of SDS and a standard chuck and arbor. It will drill up to 22mm in masonry, 30 mm in wood and 13mm in steel. It also features a neutral mode chiseling.

The prize is provided courtesy of The Tool Shed.

All you need to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above, right) and what it's used for.

Send us your answer plus your name, address and telephone number on the back of an envelope. Post it (you don't need a stamp) to: Builder's Mate 29, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50 908, Porirua 5240. One entry per entrant please.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of *Builder's Mate*! The winner will

?

What is the name of this tool pictured below and what is it used for?



be the first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Wednesday 30 April 2008. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.co.nz) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate*, due out on 1 June 2008.

Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd, BRANZ Pty, Building Research and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Wednesday 30 April 2008. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

BUILDER'S MATE WINNERS

The winner of the BM 28 competition was Paul Thomas, a builder from Hamilton. The mystery tool was a saw setter, used to set the angle of the teeth. Paul won a BOSCH mitre saw legstand.

Pictured: Sandy Jenkins of Warkworth, winner of the BM 27 competition, collecting his prize from store manager Kerry Allan at The Tool Shed in Penrose.



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BLOKES on the job

MARK DE BEER

West Harbour, Auckland.



Favourite tool

My own chisels (always name your tools and don't lend them).

Favourite tip

Secure the ladder.

REGAN MCLEOD

Queenstown.



Favourite tool

Nail gun.

Favourite tip

Always look busy.

DAMIAN HOHAIA

West Harbour, Auckland.



Favourite tool

His special Australian-built secure builders trailer (see inset).

Favourite tip

Getting the set-out right makes building the rest easier.

Know someone on the job? Send us details of his or her favourite tip and tool and you could win \$50-worth of BRANZ books.