

# Coating Metal Roof Tiles

## Fact Sheet



### Introduction

Restoration of pressed metal tiles and sheets such as Decramastic and Decrabond steel sheet roofing to restore a new fresh appearance has been a common practice in Australia and New Zealand for more than 40 years.

Decramastic and Decrabond are aggregate coated steel roofing tiles produced by Decrabond Lightweight Roofing. Originally from New Zealand, Decramastic tiles are older and no longer available in Australia. These light weight metal tiles are constructed of steel with a bitumen layer coated with varied colour stone chips.

Decrabond tiles are newer tiles, which are still manufactured. They are light weight metal tiles constructed of steel with an acrylic coating and varied colour acrylic chips. The older Decramastic tiles are more easily surface damaged due to breakdown of the bitumen adhesive layer. Bitumen is an organic material, which is damaged over years by UV light, heat, moisture and various forms of mechanical damage. Loss of stone chips and discoloration due to dirt, moss and lichen are some of the causes of the unattractive appearance on these older roofs.

The newer Decrabond tiles are affected mostly by discoloration from dirt, moss and lichen. The acrylic surface coating is more resistant to damage, however loss of chips may affect the appearance of the tile causing variations in the surface profile which causes a patchy appearance.

In the USA there are a number of different metal tiles designed to replace light weight roofing such as timer shingle and shakes. These tiles include galvanized and zinc coated pressed steel and aluminium sheets.

Restoration of all these types of metal roofs by an experienced tradesman is relatively easy, provided a number of steps are followed carefully. The application of one coat of Primer and two coats of Nutech TileFlex 2000 or NXT Cool Zone acrylic roof coating is recommended for a long lasting and durable finish.

### Application Instructions

Prior to restoration the surface must be clean and sound. Cleaning can be undertaken with the careful use of a high pressure water blaster. If moss or lichen is growing on the tile surface, it is necessary to apply Nutech Wet & Forget on the tiles before pressure cleaning the tiles. This chemically kills and removes the organic growth.

Be careful when water blasting to avoid further damage to the existing bitumen or acrylic coating.

After cleaning examine the roof carefully and treat any rusting surfaces as required (refer to Nutech Rust Converter Fact Sheet) to ensure the surface is stable.

Nutech recommends the application of one coat of Nutech Anti-Corrosion Metal Primer over the whole roof surface.

For both bitumen and acrylic coated tiles Nutech acrylic coatings are recommended including and Tileflex 2000 and NXT Cool Zone. The best finish is achieved with an airless spray gun.

Using an airless spray gun with a minimum 523 tip, apply one coat of TileFlex or NXT at 165 square feet per Gallon (4 square metres per litre). Where stone or acrylic chips are missing the tile surface will be smooth and will appear different to the rough aggregated surface.

As you apply the first coat, hand sprinkle plastic chips into the surface of the wet coating, to disguise any bare metal areas. The chips will adhere to the wet coating.



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If a hopper spray gun is used the acrylic chips can be pre-mixed in the Membrane coating using a low speed drill mixer. The addition rate for the acrylic chips will vary subject to the appearance of the existing roof. A suggested rate is 8.5 lbs per 5 Gallons (4 kgs of acrylic chips per 20 litres).

After the first coat cures apply the second coat of Tileflex or NXT at 165 square feet per Gallon (4 square metres per litre).

Replacement stone and acrylic chips can be obtained from Nutech.

A lower sheen matt coat of Tileflex 2000 may be preferred to eliminate gloss sheening of smooth areas. This will achieve a flat even colour, texture and appearance over the whole roof surface. Standard gloss Tileflex 2000 or NXT Cool Zone can be used, however the appearance may vary subject to gloss and texture appearance.

### Important Application and Usage Warnings

If too much water pressure is applied, the stone or acrylic chips can be stripped from the tile surface increasing the cost of restoration.

It is important to only stand on the tile valley. Do not stand on the tile ridge to avoid bending or damage the metal tile profile. If tiles are already damaged or are inadvertently damaged during restoration, a small pinch bar can be used to straighten the metal tile sheets.

Do not apply on any surface with a surface temperature exceeding 85°F (30°C.).

Do not apply multiple coats on the same day in cold and wet weather. Ensure that all coats are independently cured before top coating. Application of multiple coats on the same day may result in coating damage resulting in adhesion damage, coating blisters and reduced durability.

**Refer to Nutech Product Fact Sheets & Material Safety Data Sheet for additional safety and user information before using or opening the container.**

#### Important Note

The information given on this data sheet is based on many years experience and is correct to the best of our knowledge. However since the use of our product, surface conditions, weather and a number of other factors are completely beyond our control, we can only be responsible for the quality of our product at the time of dispatch. For more information please contact our Company. As this information is of a general nature, we cannot assume any responsibility in individual cases.



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