

HOW EXTERIOR PAINT WEARS OUT

Exterior coatings are eroded away by the action of UV breakdown and rain washing.

A general rule for most architectural paints is that each year approximately 15% of one coat erodes. Therefore one coat is eroded in about 6 years. Annual washing doesn't accelerate this, as the main damage visible as "chalking" is caused by daylight - the rain just washes the "chalky" paint off. This will vary a bit with gloss level as flat finishes will weather faster (25%) per year - hence not usually recommended outside.

A paint system appears worn out and starts to peel, etc. when approximately half a coat remains. Depending on how (un)even the application was, some thinner parts may fail earlier. This is often seen on roof areas where the area is painted in overlapping squares and near the end of the paint life. The overlaps are still in good condition and rest appears faded.

So for a two-coat paint system you should get 3 years life from the first coat and another 6 years from second coat. With careful paint formulating you can get another 6 years from a third coat - which allows us to offer the Solagard 15 year warranty. After three coats you start to get problems from excessive film build so 4+ coats is not recommended.

Solagard has extra durable resin in it so this is extended to 10 plus years life for a two-coat system.

Re-painting while the previous finish is still in satisfactory condition will save substantially on preparation work. We recommend maintenance of Granosite finishes after 7-8 years for this reason as they are much more difficult to repair once "worn out".

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