



# Rust Bullet® DuraGrade™ COLOR APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Rust Bullet® DuraGrade™ Color provides superior protection for metal, concrete, wood, and other types of surfaces. With its ultra-low VOC formulation, it is VOC compliant in all 50 states and air quality management districts. To ensure you achieve the best possible results, it is extremely important you read and understand these Application Guidelines thoroughly before use. As these guidelines are specific to metal applications, please contact Technical Support for application details specific to other substrates. Please refer to the most current Application Guidelines available at [www.RustBullet.com](http://www.RustBullet.com) or by calling Rust Bullet Customer Support at 800-245-1600.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

The proper surface preparation prior to applying Rust Bullet DuraGrade COLOR will ensure optimum performance. The surface must be completely dry and free of loose rust or paint, surface contaminants such as dirt, oily substances, salts, etc. Remove by scraping, sanding or wire brushing. Use Rust Bullet Metal Blast for metal surface cleaning and conditioning prior to application when necessary. Do not use any other chemical for surface prep prior to application without consulting Rust Bullet Technical Support. DuraGrade works best when in direct contact with the substrate. Surfaces with tight existing paint should, at a minimum, be roughed up with 100-150 grit sandpaper. Please note: If an existing paint or coating is not completely removed prior to applying DuraGrade, the existing paint or coating may fail, and the surface will require the reapplication of DuraGrade. No additional surface preparation should be necessary.

## PRODUCT PREPARATION

### IMPORTANT: FAILURE TO FOLLOW STIRRING PROCEDURE BELOW MAY RESULT IN POOR COATING PERFORMANCE

Stir thoroughly until completely uniform and homogeneous (approximately 3 minutes). Do not shake or use electric or mechanical mixing devices that may whip air into the product. Repeat this process if the coating has sat for any length of time. Use Rust Bullet Solvent for thinning if necessary (ratio of 3% - 5% by volume).

## APPLICATION

Apply with bristle brushes, 3/8-inch nap roller, or spray equipment. DO NOT use foam brushes or rollers. Theoretical coverage is approximately 300-350 sq. ft. per gallon/per coat depending on the method of application and the porosity of the substrate. Apply at package consistency. DO NOT THIN OR ADD ANY OTHER PRODUCT TO DuraGrade. Air or surface temperature should not be below 35°F (2°C) or above 110°F (43°C). Ideal application temperature is between 50°F (10°C) and 80°F (27°C) with humidity below 90%. Never apply while raining or under threat of rain. Do not apply if the surface temperature exceeds 150°F (65°C) or is below 32°F (0°C). DuraGrade should be applied to achieve at least an 8 mil dry film thickness (DFT), usually a 2-coat application. A minimum 12-15 mil DFT is required for industrial, commercial, and marine applications. Apply in thin, even coats; the first coat must be generous enough to soak into the substrate beneath with a second coat applied to completely seal the first coat; this cannot be done with any other coating material, including other Rust Bullet coatings. Optimum drying time between coats is approximately 2 to 6 up to 12 hours. Cure time varies based on relative humidity and temperature of the surface. It requires less time to dry on a humid day and more on a dry day. When applying additional coats, the previous coat should be dry to the touch and not wet or tacky; if there is no transfer of coating to a gloved finger it is safe to apply an additional coat. If 12 or more hours have lapsed, wait for Rust Bullet to cure for at least 24 hours then lightly scuff with 80-100 grit; enough to break the glaze to create a surface profile. **Note:** These drying times are meant to be a guide only; actual drying times can vary significantly based on film thickness, air circulation, temperature, relative humidity, and other factors. DuraGrade comes in several standard colors and does not require a topcoat. After fully cured, DuraGrade has a maximum service temperature of 314°F (157°C) continuous.

## CLEAN-UP, PRODUCT STORAGE, AND HANDLING

Wipe off fresh, uncured coating immediately by using Rust Bullet Solvent or other compatible solvent. Cured product is removed by sandpaper, a sharp tool or by mechanical means. Avoid getting on skin, clothes, or any surface not intended to coat as Rust Bullet is permanent and after curing cannot be removed without abrasive action. Application equipment must be cleaned immediately after use to avoid damage. Shelf life of an unopened can is about 2 years, and once opened, the shelf life is decreased to about one month. Partially used containers may be resealed using [Bloxygen](#) to preserve the product for up to six months. Limit the time the container is opened. Immediately wipe clean any coating from the rim of the container before resealing. Never pour the coating that has been exposed to air or moisture back into the container. If a skin has formed in a new unopened container or a sealed container, remove by cutting edge of skin at the skin/container surface. Discard the skin properly. Rust Bullet coatings are packaged in unlined paint cans. If the coating is transferred to another container, a clean unlined paint can (or similar unlined metal container) must be used.

## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Use with adequate ventilation, and if necessary, use only respiratory protection authorized in the U.S. Federal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), equivalent U.S. State standards, Canadian CSA Standard Z94.4-93, the European Standard EN149, or EU member states. **IMPORTANT:** Respirators, protective clothing, gloves, and eye protection, etc. are recommended during set-up, application, and cleanup; it is extremely difficult to remove Rust Bullet coatings from skin. Avoid open flames, pilot lights, sparks, heating elements, cigarettes, or any other possible sources of ignition. *For more complete coverage of safety issues refer to the GHS SDS at [www.RustBullet.com](http://www.RustBullet.com).*

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