



SPECIFICATION DATA SHEET – For specifiers and trades

Product description

Axolotl Metal is a liquid application that utilises real metals and is applied to form a veneer on a variety of building materials of varying shape and size. Axolotl Metals of copper, bronze, brass, aluminium and stainless steel have been developed to bond to substrates such as custom wood, steel, plaster, polyurethane foam and fibreglass without causing heat damage to the substrate. Axolotl Metal surfacing provides a joint free metal veneer that looks and performs just like solid metal. Architects and designers using Axolotl Metals can select from a wide range of metal finishes from finely polished to textured aged looks. Final appearances can be further varied by metal choice, creating a patina, burnishing, inlaying and mixing metal colours to create specialised alloys. Typical applications of Axolotl Metals have included shop fronts and shop fit-outs, corporate furniture, signage, lift interiors, relief panelling and sculpted pieces.

As the Axolotl Metal finish is applied by hand, the completed surface cannot be entirely uniform. These small irregularities enhance the natural and authentic appearance of the metal and the overall effect.

Simultaneous Determination of Ignitability, Flame Propagation, Heat Release and Smoke Release

CSIRO and NATA tested in accordance with Australian Standard 1530.3-1989, Simultaneous Determination of Ignitability, Flame Propagation, Heat Release and Smoke Release.

Ignitability Index (0-20)	Spread of Flame Index (0-10)	Heat Evolved Index (0-10)	Smoke Developed Index (0-10)
0	0	0	1

Accelerated Weathering Tests

The Axolotl Metal has undergone Accelerated Weathering tests of 2445 hours, equivalent of 12 years and shows no film breakdown and only slight black surface oxidisation that would be found in solid metals. The surface oxidisation can be removed with light scouring with steel wool.

Under cyclic heat - rain and humidity, no form of film degradation is apparent for any of the system.

Impact Resistance

The physical and chemical tests indicate the coatings have excellent impact resistance, high water pressure washing and very good chemical resistance to the more popular household cleansers.

Chemical Resistance

Axolotl Metal has undergone 8 hrs concentrated exposure to common household cleansers all recording no effect to the Axolotl coat.

Solvent resistance for removal of graffiti is very good with the application of the Axolotl topcoat.

Foot Traffic

Axolotl Metal recorded no sign of wear to the metal finish after six months of low to medium traffic. Slight to medium scratch marks were recorded from hard abrasive objects, common to cast and sheet metal.

General Surface Preparation

Surfaces to be finished must be in their raw state, i.e. no paint, varnishes etc. and must be dry and free of oils, rust or scale.

Imperfections in surfaces caused by jointing, fixings and mechanical damage will copy into the finished surface unless carefully repaired. Surfaces should also be kept clean and free from any contaminants that could affect the metal. Use fillers recommended for particular materials. **Do not use oil-based putties or fillers.**

Axolotl metals will penetrate into fixing holes that should have adequate clearance or be redrilled after the metal is applied. Components should be sized to allow for the thickness of the metal, approx 0.5 -1 mm. Axolotl Metals must be applied prior to any adjacent areas being painted. Indicate those areas that are to receive specialised masking.

The minimum time required for a job is fifteen days, more for large or intricate surfaces.

Aging

Patina can be added to the copper, bronze and brass metals which will continue to grow on the metal over time. It can be easily cleaned off with very fine steel wool. If preferred, the surface can be treated by Axolotl to stop further growth. The patina is unsuitable for floors, as it cannot be sealed.

Rust can be added to any of the metals, however, unlike patina, it will not increase over time, as our metals are non-ferrous.

Both the rust and patina are easily controlled and can be applied wherever the client requires it.

Requirements for Particular Materials

Sheet metal - Surfaces must be clean and primed with a specified metal primer supplied and/or applied by Axolotl to achieve a satisfactory bond. The minimum metal thickness is approximately 2mm. Painted metal surfaces are not suitable for Axolotl Metal, yet they can be sanded back to the raw substrate and coated.

Steel - Welded steel structures can be coated with Axolotl Metal however; once components have been metal coated they cannot be welded without causing damage to the metal. A metal primer supplied and/or applied by Axolotl must be applied prior to our metal finishes being applied.

Custom wood - Use MDF Custom wood of 9mm thickness or greater to prevent warpage. Screw and glue all joints, and use solvent to wipe off any excess glue. Fill all cracks, holes, imperfections etc. with Polyfiller or Auto Body Filler and sand to a level surface. Radius all sharp and square edges to a minimum of 1mm.

Masonry, Concrete and Plaster Cast - Pieces should be produced from moulds free of oil and release agents. Fill all imperfections with Polyfiller or casting plaster and radius all sharp points and edges to a minimum of 1mm. It is not recommended that plaster pieces be used externally.

Polystyrene - Lightly sand using 120-grade sandpaper. Imperfections in the polyurethane may read into the finish. A light screed of plaster may be required.

Fibreglass - Wash down surfaces with acetone then sand to a non-glossy surface using 120-grade sandpaper.

Plastics - Surface should be heavily scoured or sanded to obtain greater bonding.

Maintenance

Clean Axolotl Metal surfaces with warm water and mild detergents only. Never use any solvents, thinners, caustics or powder cleansers.

NOTE FOR SPECIFIERS – PLEASE ENSURE SPECIFICATION SHEET IS COPIED & ATTACHED TO TENDER DRAWINGS FOR THE REFERENCE OF ALL RELEVANT TRADES.

For further information, technical assistance or costing please contact:

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