

Axolotl Metal

SPECIFICATION DATA SHEET

For the information of Specifiers and Trades

Product Description

Axolotl Metal is a spray applied liquid metal coating, which can be bonded onto most substrates across varying sizes and shapes. Axolotl coatings are made from real semi-precious metals and have been developed to bond on to substrates such as MDF, steel, plaster, polyurethane foam and fiberglass without causing heat damage to the substrate. Axolotl Metal surfacing provides a joint free metal finish that looks and performs just like solid metal. The proprietary technology is typically only 0.5mm thick and expands both the design and construction potential of any substrate by lending it the appearance of solid metal without any of the restrictions, such as weight and cost.

Architects and designers using Axolotl Metals can select from a wide range of metal finishes from finely polished, to textured and aged looks. Axolotl also specialises in producing bespoke patterns and designs in our projects by carving, etching and inlaying our metal surfaces. Typical applications of Axolotl Metals have included shop fronts and shop fit-outs, corporate furniture, signage, entry doors, lift interiors, feature walls and sculpted pieces.

Axolotl Metals are available in a broad range of metal colours such as Bronze, Brass & Copper, and in various textures and aging effects including Verdigris patina, Florentine, Antique and Pearl. A guide to specifying Axolotl metals is shown on page 4, along with a matrix of the full Axolotl metal range showing available textures, aging and effects.

Axolotl Metals are created using natural metals that are chemically aged to a set patina. The aesthetic beauty of the patina is achieved through various proprietary technologies held by Axolotl. The organic nature of the metal coating and aging process enables an intended inconsistency in the panels, just as the material would do naturally if left for several years. It also works well in high traffic areas as the varied surface helps disguise marks such as fingerprints, all metals are offered with a topcoat for further protection.

Axolotl offers to seal all metals with a semi-gloss or gloss polyurethane. This topcoat application may enhance or dull the patina and will 'lock in' and patina from further ageing. Where a hi-shine appearance is required Axolotl also offers to apply a wax or to leave the metal treatments unsealed. This will result in the natural oxidisation of the metals over time. A waxed or unsealed Axolotl treatment may need to be rebuffered and waxed to stay clean and bright over time. Maintenance will be dependant on the application and location. Please refer to Axolotl for technical advice.

General Surface Preparation

Surfaces to be bonded must be in their raw state (no paint, varnishes etc. and must be dry and free of oils, rust or scale) or with a suitable pre-treatment as required. (see note on pre-treatment and preparation) Surfaces should also be kept clean and free from any contaminants that could affect the metal. Use fillers recommended below for particular materials. **Do not use oil-based putties or fillers.**

Imperfections in surfaces caused by jointing, fixings and mechanical damage will copy into the finished surface unless carefully repaired. The client acknowledges that the substrate is to be supplied free of imperfections.

Axolotl metals will penetrate into fixing holes, which 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 treated. Indicate those areas that are to receive specialised masking.

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

Cutting

Cutting of panels must be done prior to the Axolotl treatment to avoid leaving a raw and unsealed edge. Cutting down of panels after an Axolotl Treatment has been applied can lead to the chipping of the surface coat. In the case of metal substrates, items being installed outdoors or subject to water exposure, cutting is not recommended after treatment. Cutting after treatment will leave the panel with an exposed and uncoated edge, which can lead to shearing. Cutting after treatment can also expose the metal base substrate to the applied Axolotl Metal, which could lead to an electrolytic reaction. Please note any cutting after

treatment is not recommended and will void the warranty.

Foot Traffic

Axolotl Metals can be used in trafficable applications, however textured coatings are recommended to minimise visible wear and tear. Slight to medium scratch marks are likely to be seen in high traffic applications, common to cast and sheet metal.

Durability

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.

Maintenance

Axolotl surfaces should be cleaned following the instructions below, as required, to prevent accumulation of atmospheric fall out such as dirt, dust, grease and salt residue and ensure the optimum decorative life of the product is achieved.

Materials may also be affected where the coating is subject to, but not limited to the following: water pooling, harsh climatic conditions, direct western sunlight, exposure to salt water, water immersion and high pollution levels. Please note surfaces close to salt water will generally require a more regular cleaning cycle to prevent premature aging or break down of the topcoat. It is recommended to clean Axolotl treatments exposed to these conditions at least monthly.

Sealed Metals: Clean Axolotl Metal surfaces with a soft cloth, warm water and mild detergents only. Never use any solvents, thinners, caustics or powder cleansers. Do not use abrasives as this will potentially scratch or remove the aging.

Unsealed Metals: Caution is to be used when cleaning unsealed metals as it is their characteristic to continue to change. The use of cleaners may effect or remove the patina. Axolotl recommends the client tests a small section with warm water and a soft cloth first as the patina may take time to settle and become permanent. Never use any solvents, thinners, caustics or powder cleansers. Do not use abrasives as this will potentially scratch or remove the aging. Metals supplied without a topcoat will age over time - the rate of which is dependant on the environment it is placed in. Placement near salt water will accelerate the aging process in some metals.

The Axolotl topcoat has an external life span of between 4-10 years dependant on the environmental conditions it is subject to. As the topcoat breaks down the Axolotl metal may begin to darken, oxidise or develop a patina, similar to how a natural raw metal would behave.

To restore or refresh the items, the metal should be polished with 00 grade steel wool to a uniform appearance and receive reapplication of the topcoat. Please contact Axolotl for information on the correct polishing procedures for your project, as well as the topcoat and application methods.

Please note the quality of restoration will be greatly dependant on the metals condition, texture and if any, the original patina.

Ageing - Patina can be added to select metals and will continue to grow on the metal over time. It can be easily cleaned off with very fine steel wool, note the longer the aging is present the more difficult it will be to remove. If preferred, Axolotl can treat the surface with a topcoat to stop further growth. Patinas are added to Axolotl metals either through the application of chemicals or heat. Each individual panel will react slightly different, creating an intended inconsistency found in natural aged metals.

Due to the natural oxidisation and idiosyncrasies in natural metals, Axolotl Metals are bound by the inherent properties of the material. Axolotl recommends its clients acknowledge that they understand the outcomes as outlined below:

Environmental conditions such as temperature fluctuations and humidity naturally affect the metals and may affect the outcome of the desired patina. This may lead to variations in colour and shade.

All items to be coated should be delivered in good condition. Dents, machining marks, and other inherent issues with any supplied panels will most likely be present in the finished product and may even be highlighted via the aging process. Axolotl will contact the client where possible if a defect is identified prior to treatment.

Samples illustrating the desired patina are used solely as a guide for direction of the finished product. If the client has a sample they would like Axolotl to match to they must provide the sample at the time of order, and all work will be carried out to match as best as possible.

Custom patination of metals must be performed with the direction of an approved sample.

Watermarks, drips and staining may be present in the finish, particularly on three-dimensional items due to the application of the liquid chemicals.

Lead Times

Please confirm lead times prior to delivery/commencement of work. The minimum time required for any work carried out in our factory is generally 15-20 working days, however this may increase for large or intricate surfaces, or depend upon the existing factory workload.

Test Results

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	2

Accelerated Weathering Tests

The Axolotl Metal has undergone Accelerated Weathering tests of 4000 hours, equivalent of 20 years and shows no film breakdown and only slight black surface oxidization that would be found in solid metals. The surface oxidization 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.

These tests were carried out on etch primed aluminium milled panels to produce the above results under laboratory conditions.

Household Chemical Resistance

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

Additional Independent testing was conducted by AWATA Product testing, with the following results:

Chemical Sample	Staining Rating
Ammonia	5
Bleach	5
10% citric acid solution	5
Vinegar	5
Windex	5
Betadine	5

Where 5 equals no change and 1 equals very significant change. Each chemical was applied to the sample and allowed to stand for 1 hour

Requirements for Substrates

It is recommended that the highest quality substrate be used at all times. Axolotl are not always able to determine the quality of a product when it is delivered to us however if it is obvious we will bring it to your attention before we commence work. Axolotl do not recommend grain substrates for outdoor use. Non-grain substrates such as CFC, Masonite and Phenolic resin are preferred.

Sheet metal - The minimum thickness recommended for the metal substrate is approximately 2mm. Sheet metals can be supplied raw if suitable with the metal alloy selected for coating, or should be supplied with a pre-treatment for external use or to create a suitable barrier between the substrate and selected metal coating. (See note on pre-treatment and preparation)

Steel - Welded steel structures can be coated with Axolotl Metal however; once components have been metal coated they cannot be welded again without causing damage to the metal. Steel should be powdercoated or galvanised for external use. (See note on pre-treatment and preparation)

Customwood and CFC - Where possible it is recommended to use MDF and CFC 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 polystyrene may read into the finish. Epoxy Resin hardener coat sanded to desired texture required for Axolotl to coat.

Fiberglass - 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. Discuss suitability with Axolotl first. Plastics can expand and contract over large surface areas when used externally.

Pre-treatment and Preparation

The recommended pre-treatment and preparation of metal substrates varies based on the material type, application (i.e. internal or external), design of item, and specified Axolotl coating type.

Preparation between the base material and the Axolotl metal finish is often required to remove risk of chemical reaction; metals can naturally react with one another when the different alloys come into contact. Axolotl will express the need for pre-treatment of the substrate where possible, and can offer some pre-treatment options for each individual job.

In the case of powder coating, a warranty grade powder is recommended. In the case of galvanised metals, hot dip galvanisation is preferred. Axolotl recommends that the coating company providing such treatments warrant all pre-treatment and preparation.

It is the client's sole responsibility to ensure that the substrate they supply to Axolotl is suitable or has been treated with the appropriate protective coatings. In many cases a faulty coating system cannot be identified until it begins to fail. Poor quality systems can have a life span of up to 5 years; high quality systems are warranted for 15 years. Where Axolotl is able to identify a substandard pre-treatment or substandard preparation of an item that arrives into the factory we will advise the client, and works cannot proceed until the substrate is rectified. (Although visible identification of the pre-treatment grade used is generally not possible).

Axolotl coatings are reliant on the preparative work and protective coating it is bonded to; failure of the preparative coatings will directly affect the Axolotl finish. The Axolotl warranty is voided where the proper preparation requirements of a project are ignored. The warranty and details of the preparatory works should be provided to Axolotl upon request.

Proper pre-treatment is the base for any high performance coating system, and should be properly considered as the rework and rectification of a substandard system is difficult and costly.

Disclaimer: By signing Axolotl's quotation clients are acknowledging that they understand the outcomes as outlined above. The information presented herein is supplied as a guide to those who handle, install or use this product. It is important that the end user makes a determination regarding the safety procedures utilised during use of this product and ensure they are adequate. Our application of written or spoken technical recommendations that we use to support the buyer/processor is based on our experience, according to the current state of knowledge in science and practice and are not binding and shall not establish a legally valid contractual relationship, and no additional obligations under the purchase contract. Since the use and application of this product is beyond our control we cannot be held responsible for product field performance. The information represented above is the result of our considerable experience with this product but is not to be construed as a performance warranty.

METAL	TEXTURE						EFFECT				AGING						SEALER					
	CAST	PSEUDO SMOOTH	SMOOTH	LUNAR	PITTED	LIGHT	VIPER	CAYMAN	LACE	UNFINISHED	ANTIQUE	BROWN FLORENTINE	FLORENTINE	PEARL PATINA	VERDIGRIS PATINA	TARNISH	UNSEALED (TARNISH)	SEM-GLOSS TOPCOAT (STANDARD)	GLOSS TOPCOAT	ANTI GRAFFITI TOPCOAT	WAX	
ALUMINIUM	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ANTHRA ZINC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BRASS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BRONZE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
COPPER	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GOLD BRONZE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GOLD NICKEL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GRAPHITE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BLACK RUST	•																					
BROWN RUST	•																					
MARINE RUST	•																					
MAJESTIC RUST	•																					
NICKEL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
PEWTER	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ROSE ALLOY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SENTINAL COPPER	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SILVER NICKEL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
STAINLESS STEEL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
TREASURY BRONZE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

PLEASE NOTE:

- Antique aging is suitable with Lunar, Pitted and Light texture only.
- Anti Graffiti topcoat is a high gloss finish.

- Verdigris Patina shows best results with a tarnish or semi-gloss sealer.
- Linish direction is to be defined in specification

SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the example below when specifying an Axolotl treatment to ensure all information necessary for quoting is provided. If the specification is to match a supplied sample or image, a photograph should be included with the specification. For best results we recommend the physical sample, or a section of it is returned when the order commences.

EXAMPLE:

Manufacturer: Axolotl
Product: Metal
Type: Brass
Texture: Pitted
Aging: Brown Florentine *refer to image
Surface effect: Carved Tortoise
Topcoat: Semi-gloss (standard)



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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