AEP SPAN TECHNICAL BULLETIN #38

STORAGE OF PERFORATED STEEL

Perforated material denotes panels or flat sheet material that is punched with a series of holes or slots. Perforation patterns change the way light, air, and sound are diffused. Perforated patterns are differentiated based on the percentage of open area and AEP Span offers several perforated patterns to suit a range of screen wall, partition and enclosure needs. During the perforating process, a solid layer of peel coat (strippable film) is applied to minimize abrasion and scratching damage to the painted surface. When panels are applied to the structure, the peel coat is removed from the panel surface during the installation process (**See AEP Span Technical Bulletin #14 and #15 for peel coat best practices)**.

Due to the number of punched holes, perforated steel material will have many exposed cut edges that can contribute to premature corrosion or rust run off during storage or installation. Corrosion or paint failure as a result of perforation is not covered under warranty. For some exterior applications, aluminum may be a more suitable substrate than steel. Always review your proposed perforated design with an AEP Span technical representative for suitability prior to project commencement.

An example of wet stack storage corrosion on a perforated panel

Storage of Steel Perforated Products

Perforated products should not be stored onsite in bundles for any longer than 14 days prior to installation, unless stored indoors in a semi or fully climate-controlled structure. These bundles should be stored off the ground, ideally on racks or on dunnage. Once the panels are installed, they are no longer nested in bundles, avoiding constant moisture or trapped moisture.

If stored outside for extended periods prior to installation, bundles of panels are exposed to moisture infiltration between the layers of panels. Accelerated corrosion from storage is known as wet stack storage corrosion and also occurs on standard, non-perforated products (**See AEP Span Technical Bulletin #9 for additional details**). The addition of the peel coat on each sheet can trap added moisture between the panel layers, further accelerating wet stack corrosion. Open perforation points on top of a strippable film allow moisture to be trapped in direct contact with the exposed base steel edge. This results in accelerated premature corrosion and rust staining.

Failure to follow this guidance may result in moderate to significant rust staining as depicted below. This staining may be permanent or difficult to remove.

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