Flame Security
INTERNATIONAL

Frequently Asked Questions

FSA FIRECOAT Exterior & FIRECOAT Interior

What is FSA FIRECOAT Exterior?

FIRECOAT Exterior:

- Is a tough and durable light grey, water-based, self-priming, flexible intumescent undercoat designed for both interior and exterior applications.
- It provides an ignition and flame spread barrier on external and internal combustible surfaces.
- It's uniquely rated to BAL-40 for extreme fire **protection, making it suitable for areas prone to bushfires.**
- Can be used on various substrates, including existing render, timber, aluminium, steel, concrete, plasterboard, and brick.
- Easily applied using spray, roller, or brush methods

What rating does FIRECOAT Exterior have?

- AS 3959:2018 (BAL 40) - Extremely high bushfire rating
- S 1530.4-2014 - Steel Protection | FRL 120/-/-
- AS 1530.4-2014 - External wall system - FRL -/60/60
- ASTM D2898 Method B - Accelerated weathering testing

What is FSA FIRECOAT Interior?

FIRECOAT Interior:

- Is an interior undercoat water-based paint for fire protection of timber and plasterboard.
- It minimises the spread of fire.
- Compared to FSA FIRECOAT Exterior it offers a smoother finish but, unlike FSA FIRECOAT Exterior, it is not intended for external use.
- Classified EN 13501-1 (Bs1/d0) in accreditations EN 13823 & EN ISO 11925-2 – this is the highest flame-retardant rating for an internal paint.
- Easily applied using spray, roller, or brush methods.

What rating does FIRECOAT Interior have?

- Classified B-s1,dO in accreditations EN 13823 & EN ISO 11925-2. This is the highest flame-retardant rating for an internal paint.
- AS/NZS 1530.3:1999 - Simultaneous determination of ignitability, flame propagation, heat release & smoke
- AS 1530.4:2014 - Fire resistance test for an internal - Plaster board wall system* | FRL -/30/30

What is BAL-40?

The BAL rating is the Australian standard for measuring the risk of a home's exposure to ember attack, radiant heat, and direct flame contact. The BAL rating determines the construction and building requirements necessary to protect homes in bushfire prone areas. There are six levels of the BAL rating in accordance with the Australian Standard – AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas. We've detailed each of the BAL ratings, along with what they mean, in the table below.

BAL	Description of risk - Bush Fire Attack Level
BAL – LOW	Lowest risk from a potential fire.
BAL – 12.5	Risk is primarily from potential embers during a fire.
BAL – 19	Moderate risk, particularly from embers and burning debris.
BAL – 29	High risk, particularly from embers, debris and heat.
BAL – 40	**Very high risk. Likely to be impacted by embers, debris, heat and potentially flames.**
BAL – FZ	Extreme risk. Directly exposed to the flames of a potential fire front.

Source: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/building-after-bush-fire/your-level-of-risk

The higher the BAL rating, the more susceptible the structure is to bushfire-related damage.

Is FIRECOAT Exterior BAL-40 rated?

Yes, Exterior FIRECOAT Exterior is indeed BAL-40 rated. This rating certifies that FIRECOAT Exterior can deter ignition, burning, and flaming caused by windborne embers, debris, exposure to flames, and high heat flux. It offers significant protection for your property and belongings in high-risk fire-prone areas.

Where can I find more information on FIRECOAT products?

To facilitate your needs, we've made it convenient for you to access all relevant certifications and the Technical Data Sheet for FSA FIRECOAT Exterior and Interior. Simply visit our website at https://fsafirecoat.com.au/products/ to download the necessary documents.

How often do I need to re-coat with FIRECOAT Exterior?

FIRECOAT Exterior, will last at least 10 years when applied to exterior surfaces with or without a topcoat.

Where is FIRECOAT made?

FIRECOAT has been designed by University of NSW scientist and proudly manufactured in Australia.

What colour do FIRECOAT Exterior and FIRECOAT Interior come in?

FIRECOAT Exterior is light grey. If you want, you can easily paint over it with your choice of topcoat, just like any other undercoat paint, to achieve your desired colour.

FIRECOAT Interior is a white undercoat.

Is my property warranted against burning if I use FIRECOAT?

No, your property is not warranted against burning in the event of a bushfire. There are numerous variables in a bushfire situation. However, using FIRECOAT according to its application instructions will substantially improve the protection of your home from bushfire threat.

What if the fire starts inside the house?

Using FIRECOAT Interior on your walls and especially ceilings will enhance your chances of reducing the spread of fire within your home.

Can you paint the roof and protect it?

Depending on the roofing material, it may be possible to paint it. However, it's important to note that most fires start in roof spaces due to embers igniting gutter litter and infiltrating the roof space. It is highly recommended that you keep your gutters clean and seal all gaps around roof space to prevent ember penetration.

How does FIRECOAT compare to other fire-resistant paints on the market?

FIRECOAT stands out due to its exceptional performance, durability, and unique features:

1. **Unparalleled Performance**: FIRECOAT has been rigorously tested and proven to provide exceptional fire protection. It provides reliable protection against combustion of flammable surfaces and the spread of flames, making it a superior choice for safeguarding your property and assets.
2. **Durability:** FIRECOAT maintains its effectiveness and durability even after years of environmental exposure. It offers long-lasting fire protection for your peace of mind.
3. **Ease of Application**: One of FIRECOAT's standout features is its user-friendly application process. DIY enthusiasts can easily apply it, eliminating the need for costly professional installation. This not only saves you money but also empowers you to take control of your fire protection needs.
4. **Cost-Effective:** FIRECOAT provides a cost-effective solution for fire protection of your property. You can apply the product yourself without having to pay for a licensed professional applicator to do it for you.
5. **Versatile Use:** FIRECOAT products are suitable for a wide range of applications (residential and commercial buildings) and substrates, including timber, aluminium, steel, concrete, plasterboard, and brick. Its versatility makes it a valuable choice for both homeowners and businesses looking to enhance fire safety.

6. **Compliance with Safety Standards:** FIRECOAT complies with industry safety standards and regulations, ensuring that it meets the highest quality and safety benchmarks.

In summary, FIRECOAT sets itself apart as the ultimate fire- protection paint option on the market. Its combination of performance, durability, ease of application, and cost-effectiveness makes it the preferred choice for anyone seeking superior fire protection. Whether you're a DIY enthusiast or a property owner, FIRECOAT provides additional safety and peace of mind.

Where can I buy FIRECOAT?

We distribute FSA FIRECOAT through Bunnings. The following link will provide you with the latest pricing: https://www.bunnings.com.au/search/products?page=1&q=Firecoat&sort=BoostOrder

APPLICATION PROCESS

What surfaces can I apply FSA FIRECOAT Exterior?

You can apply to exterior surfaces such as timber, bricks, concrete, fibre cement board, masonry, and steel.

What surfaces can I apply FSA FIRECOAT Interior?

It is suitable for interior substrates like timber and plasterboard.

Is there any special application process for FIRECOAT?

No, FIRECOAT is applied in the same manner as any other undercoat paint. To ensure maximum fire protection, apply it to the specified minimum thickness, which can be found on the product tin. Just make sure prior to use, you stir the contents thoroughly using a paint paddle or a power mixer. Ensure paint is mixed from bottom to top of the tin.

What are the surface preparation requirements for FIRECOAT, and can I use it on surfaces that have already been painted with a different type of paint?

Yes, you can but prior to application all surfaces should be clean, dry, free from dust, oil, wax, grease, dirt, resin and any loose or flaking paint.

Existing coatings with poor adhesion must be completely removed. Timber surface should be completely dry prior to application.

What is the recommended coating coverage and thickness for FSA FIRECOAT Exterior?

The ideal coverage of FSA FIRECOAT Exterior for BAL-40 is 1.43 square metres per litre per coat.

For BAL40 – Apply 3 coats using a 20mm or greater nap roller to achieve a dry film thickness of 1mm (minimum).

What is the recommended coating coverage and thickness for FSA FIRECOAT Interior?

The ideal coverage of FSA FIRECOAT Interior for gyprock is 1.43 square metres per litre per coat.

For timber – Apply 1 coat to achieve a dry film thickness of 0.34mm (minimum).

Is there a recommended temperature range for applying FIRECOAT?

The temperature of your house affects the performance of paint. Temperature must be above 10 °C and below 35°C throughout the entire painting process with good air circulation and a relative humidity no greater than 75%. Avoiding extremely hot or cold conditions is advisable for optimal results.

What equipment can I use to apply FIRECOAT?

Do not thin FIRECOAT. We recommend the following equipment for ease of application:

- **Brush:** Use top quality polyester/nylon blend brush or similar.
- **Roller:** Use 20mm or greater polyester blend nap roller.
- **Airless spray:** Use airless spray with a minimum 1 GPM rating at 3000 psi such as Graco 795, 1095 or similar. Tip: 521 or greater with pressure of 2100 psi or higher.
  Due to the unique properties of FIRECOAT it is important to use an airless spray gun with the right specification as others may clog.

How long does it take for FIRECOAT to dry and cure?

At ideal drying conditions of 24°C with good air circulation and a relative humidity below 50%, the applicable drying time is:

- at least 4-6 hours between coats of FSI-FIRECOAT Exterior
- at least 12 hours before applying topcoat.

Under cooler or humid conditions allow longer drying times. Temperature must be above 10°C and below 35°C during application and drying times.

Make sure the paint is thoroughly dry to touch before applying the next coat. Failure to do so may lead to cracking and peeling between coats. Full hardness is achieved after 7 days.

How do I clean my brushes, rollers, or airless sprayer after using FIRECOAT?

Clean-up is a breeze with FIRECOAT - just use water to clean your brushes and rollers. Flush airless spray equipment promptly after painting.

Does FIRECOAT have any specific storage requirements?

Store at temperature between 5-35°C and store away from direct sunlight and extreme heat. Keep containers closed when not in use and keep out of reach of children and pets.

How do I properly dispose of leftover FIRECOAT and paint containers?

Do not pour leftover paint down the drain. Unwanted paint and empty containers should be disposed as chemical waste following all applicable local, national, and international regulations. Follow your local council advice regarding household chemicals disposal. more information on responsible disposal of paint and packaging visit paintback.com.au.

Additional Measures you can take to protect your home.

Besides FIRECOAT, what else can I do to help protect my home from fire?

You can take additional measures to protect your home from bushfires. Visit the Your Home Government website for more ideas on bushfire protection.

Some low-cost options include:

These include the following low-cost measures:

- Sealing all gaps around the house with appropriately specified joining strips or flexible silicon-based sealant
- Installing appropriately specified building membranes behind weatherboards or other external cladding when they are being replaced
- Installing appropriately specified building membranes beneath existing roofing (especially tiled roofs) when it is being replaced for maintenance
- Installing draught excluders at the base of side-hung doors, and draught seals around window and door frames
- Sealing vents and weep holes in external walls with aluminium mesh (<2mm gap)
- Sealing around roofing and roof penetrations with appropriately specified flexible silicon-based sealant
- Installing non-combustible gutter guards
- Putting non-combustible metal mesh over areas of windows and doors where they can be opened
- Reducing the amount of bushfire fuel around the house to create an asset protection zone or a defendable space.

What should I do in the event of a bushfire?

In the event of a bushfire, it is recommended that you leave your property as soon as possible and following any advice provided by your local fire-fighting service. For further guidance and tips on protecting yourself and your property during a bushfire, refer to the Rural Fire Service website.

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