



Designation: ~~D7396~~—~~08~~ **D7396** – 14

Standard Guide for Preparation of New, Continuous Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Steel Surfaces for Painting¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7396; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope—Scope*

1.1 This guide covers surface cleaning and various methods ~~offor~~ treating ~~new zinc-coated by the continuous process (galvanized)~~ new, continuous zinc-coated (galvanized) steel surfaces produced by either the hot-dip method or by electroplating. This guide is applicable to only surface preparation for application of liquid paint and coating products, and not for powder coating applications. This guide covers surfaces that have not been treated previously at the mill to provide temporary protection against staining by moisture other than by easily removed protective oils (see [Appendix X1](#)). For preparing surfaces of new or weathered items of zinc-coated steel produced by batch processing, refer to Practice [D6386](#).

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[A780 Practice for Repair of Damaged and Uncoated Areas of Hot-Dip Galvanized Coatings](#)

[D4285 Test Method for Indicating Oil or Water in Compressed Air](#)

[D6386 Practice for Preparation of Zinc \(Hot-Dip Galvanized\) Coated Iron and Steel Product and Hardware Surfaces for Painting](#)

[D6492 Practice for Detection of Hexavalent Chromium On Zinc and Zinc/Aluminum Alloy Coated Steel](#)

2.2 *SSPC—The Society for Protective Coatings Standards:*³

[Surface Preparation Specification No. 1 Solvent Cleaning](#)

[Surface Preparation Specification No. 2 Hand Tool Cleaning](#)

[Surface Preparation Specification No. 3 Power Tool Cleaning](#)

[Surface Preparation Specification No. 716 Brush-Off Blast Cleaning of Coated and Uncoated Galvanized Steel, Stainless Steel, and Non-Ferrous Metals](#)

[Paint Specification No. 27 Basic Zinc Chromate-Vinyl Butyral Wash Primer](#)

3. Summary of Guide

3.1 This guide describes surface cleaning and treatment methods that provide galvanized surfaces suitable for painting, specifically so that an applied coating system can develop the adhesion necessary for satisfactory service life.

3.2 Eight methods of treatment ([Note 1](#) and [Note 2](#)) are covered as follows:

3.2.1 *Method A*—Zinc Phosphate Treatment.

3.2.2 *Method B*—Chromate Treatment.

3.2.3 *Method C*—Aqueous Chromic-Organic Treatment.

3.2.4 *Method D*—Acid-Curing Resinous Treatment.

3.2.5 *Method E*—Annealing Heat Treatments.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D01](#) on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D01.46](#) on Industrial Protective Coatings.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](#), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](#). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the ~~standard's~~ Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, [http://www.sspc.org](#).

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

3.2.6 *Method F*—Amorphous Complex-Oxide Treatment.

3.2.7 *Method G*—Abrasive Blast Cleaning.

3.2.8 *Method H*—Fluro-Titanic/Zirconic Polymer Treatment.

NOTE 1—Materials employed in these methods of treatment are available from a number of sources as proprietary compounds or methods. Selection may be made from available sources.

NOTE 2—The use of solvents containing volatile organic compounds to prepare or treat the surface of metal components contributes to air pollution in the same manner as the use of solvent containing paints and coatings. The user of this guide must determine the applicability of appropriate regulations governing the volatile organic compound content of the materials used in a shop application (Miscellaneous Metal Parts), field painting (Architectural), or specific process industry.

3.3 Variations in surface preparation produce end conditions that differ and hence do not necessarily yield identical results when paints are subsequently applied. Service conditions will dictate the type of surface preparation to be selected, although the quality produced by any individual method may vary with different zinc coatings.

3.4 Galvanized surfaces are treated by using various methods and apparatus; satisfactory application may be made at the following locations:

	Mill	Plant	Field
Method A	Y	Y	Y
Method B	Y	Y	...
Method C	Y	Y	...
Method D	Y	Y	Y
Method E	Y
Method F	Y	Y	...
Method G	Y	Y	Y
Method H	Y	Y	...

3.5 This guide does not describe the cleaning necessary to provide a zinc-coated (galvanized) surface suitable for the application of the treatments. Many cleaning methods are applicable and the preferred method should be agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

NOTE 3—Most producers of zinc-coated (galvanized) steel sheets and coils have adopted the practice of applying an inhibitor to the zinc surface to give temporary protection against staining by moisture during shipping or storage. Some of these inhibitors interfere with proper reaction of most of the treatments described in these methods, and an unsatisfactory surface for painting results. It is strongly recommended that the purchaser consult the supplier of the chemical treatment to be used as to the suitability of the zinc surfaces for treatment by any of these methods.

3.6 *Surface Cleaning*—Galvanized surfaces must be clean and free of soluble salts, oil and grease before they are treated. Adhesion problems have been experienced with newly galvanized articles that have been water quenched or treated with chromate conversion coatings. These two post-galvanizing processes, water quenching and chromate conversion coating, are not recommended for galvanized articles that are to be treated before painting. The presence of chromate conversion coatings on the surface of the galvanized steel can be detected using Practice [D6492](#).

3.6.1 *Aqueous Alkaline Cleaning*—An alkaline solution, pH in the range of 11 to 12 definitely not greater than 13, can be used to remove traces of oil, grease, or dirt. An alkaline cleaner is unsuitable for removal of heavy build-up of zinc oxide or wet storage stain. See the American Galvanizers Publication, *Wet Storage Stain*,⁴ for description of these conditions. The alkaline solution is nominally 2 to 5 % sodium compounds, with small additions of emulsifying, chelating, or sequestering agents, or combinations thereof. This solution can be applied through immersion in a tank filled with the solution, by spraying, or by brushing with a soft bristle brush, usually nylon and not steel or copper. When dipping or spraying, the solution works best in the temperature range from 60 to 85°C. ~~85°C~~ (140 to 185°F). After cleaning, rinse thoroughly in hot water or water under pressure. Allow to dry completely before proceeding. Whenever galvanized steel is rinsed, heated drying to accelerate the complete removal of water from the surface is desirable.

3.6.2 *Solvent Cleaning*—Typical cleaning solvents, such as mineral spirits or high-flash naphtha, can be used to remove oil and grease. The procedure to be used is as specified in SSPC Surface Preparation Specification 1. Proper rags or brushes should be used to wipe the galvanized parts. (**Warning**—These rags or brushes should be cleaned or recycled often, since oil can accumulate on their surfaces and be transferred back to the galvanized part. Small parts may be dipped or cleaned in ultrasonic baths of ~~solvents~~ solvents.) After cleaning, rinse thoroughly in hot water or water under pressure. Allow to dry completely before proceeding. Whenever galvanized steel is rinsed, heated drying to accelerate the complete removal of water from the surface is desirable.

3.6.3 *Hand or Power Tool Cleaning*—Hand or power tool cleaning may be used to clean light deposits of zinc reaction by-products, such as wet storage ~~stain~~, stain or salts, as specified in SSPC Surface Preparation Specification 2 or 3.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide describes procedures that can be used to prepare new zinc-coated surfaces for painting and improve the bond of paint to the zinc surface.

⁴ *Wet Storage Stain* (1997), available from American Galvanizers Association, 6881 South Holly Circle, Suite 108 Centennial, Colorado 80112, <http://www.galvanizeit.org>.