



May 01, 2024

Re: Storage and transportation of galvanized (zinc coated) wire products.

A typical problem with galvanized coatings is 'white rust' or 'storage stains'. This defect appears as a white, powdery deposit on the surface of the galvanized coating. White rust is detrimental to the galvanized product's appearance and in some cases can significantly damage the coating.

The durability of the zinc coating is determined by the coating weight and the stable oxide film that forms when zinc is exposed to the atmosphere.

Zinc's reaction with the atmosphere occurs in two stages:

1. Zinc reacts with moisture and oxygen to form zinc hydroxide.
2. Zinc hydroxide or "white rust" is porous and has minor protective effect. Zinc hydroxide reacts further with carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, forming a basic zinc carbonate. This film is dense and adherent and is mainly responsible for the excellent resistance of zinc to ordinary atmospheres.

When galvanized steel is stored or transported in humid conditions that don't allow free flowing air, only the first reaction occurs, resulting in the formation of an excessive layer of zinc hydroxide (white rust). Usually, the damage is cosmetic. However, if unfavorable storage conditions are not corrected, formation of the white rust will continue. The reaction may consume a portion of the zinc coating with a subsequent reduction in the product's service life.

To avoid white rust forming in storage, the following rules must apply:

- Keep the galvanized products dry.
- Store in dry and well ventilated areas.
- Avoid condensation by allowing air circulation between the surfaces.
- If stored outside: stack to provide for drainage of water. When tarp coverage is used, it must be removed periodically to allow for drying and to avoid condensation.

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