

# How to get a quality finish on HVAC systems

A guide to quality coatings for the Air conditioning industry

- > Why the coating finish is critical to HVAC products
- > What to plan for to get the finish right
- > How to get a great coating finish



# Why does finish matter?

## **Maximise durability**

The exterior coat is a very visible part of condition and deterioration. Expensive hardware can be let down by a cheap finish. A good finish will mean a great-looking system for many years to come.

## **Looks matter**

The finish is important to customers' perceived quality. The better it looks, the more a customer will be willing to pay.

## Different materials, different finish

### **Plan up front to get good cohesion of finish for your product**

If a completed product is entirely one material this can be coated as a unit. However, with multiple material types, it will likely have to be dis-assembled for coating.

Not all material types can have the same finish type, leading to potential gaps or inconsistencies in finish. Metal can be powder coated, but plastics need to have a wet spray paint finish. Paint and powder have different colour ranges, with much fewer options in powder than paint, so plan in advance.

## How to get a great finish

### **Get the right preparation done**

Cleaning prior to coating is essential to remove dust and swarf from the manufacturing process. A chemical bath and water rinse is recommended.

If the product has an existing coating in a similar colour, then a different coat can be applied directly ontop. However, imperfections in the old surface or dark colours can show through once re-coated so paint stripping or sand blasting prior can often result in a better finish.

## Apply the right coatings

Apply an Preparation coat, particularly if the product is exposed to the elements. Aluminium should have a chromate coating for exterior surfaces. Otherwise, the simpler Etch coat for interior surfaces. Galvanised steel should be coated with Lithoform and prebaked to help the powder adhere.

Consider an undercoat for products particularly exposed to the elements, either for powder or paint finish.

Powder coating is preferable for any metal surface as it is a much more durable and is a lower cost. Paint finish is the only option for plastic. Note, a high-quality wet spray finish is noticeably superior and more durable than what a spraycan achieves.

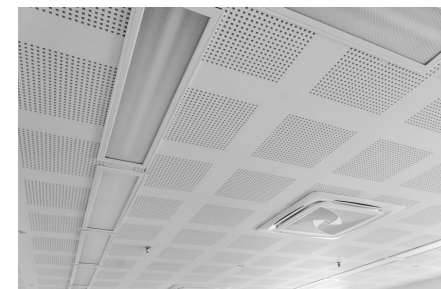
## Consider the installed environment

The look of a unit is based on its installation context - one solution does not fit all! Matching the colour of surroundings (or a nice contrast) can turn an average space into a premium one.

## Have a touch up plan

Scratches and scuffs commonly happen during transport and installation. Time spent returning to site for touch ups is a significant cost to installers. It pays to have the right touch up solution ready to go.

Acrylic Lacquer spraycans are best for touch ups jobs, have cans in any relevant colours ready for touch ups. Polish bottles are also good to fill any deeper scratches.





# What **Industrial Painters** can offer the air conditioning sector

## **1. A quality finish**

We understand HVAC products, having refined our knowledge and skills with a number of happy customers over many years.

## **2. Quick turnaround times**

We know that the sooner you can get your product out to your customers the better. Our turnaround times are industry-leading. Have an urgent job to be done asap, just let us know.

## **3. A single shop for any surface and use**

With all your different products and materials, sizes and dimensions. Any colour-match. Paint, powder, or baked enamel. We got you.

## **4. Touch ups solution made easy**

Industrial Painters are the local wholesaler for Colour cans, stocking most regular colours in Acrylic lacquer touch up cans, in addition to Polish bottles for filling in scratches.

## **5. Job done right or we'll do it again**

Got an issue with a coating. We'll fix it, no dramas.

Contact the specialists in HVAC coatings



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