

# Solver Paints

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## PRODUCT INFORMATION

SS-104

### REMOVAL OF MOSS AND LICHEN GROWTH

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"The organic growth which occurs on various roofing materials, and which is often called "moss", is usually a lichen. On slates and terra-cotta tiles the common form of lichen consists of grey-green clumps of dry looking material which thicken in the centre as the growth slowly progresses; on asbestos cement the growth is usually black.

Although cases of actual roof leakage caused by the accumulation of this material are rare, many people find the infestation unattractive and therefore prefer to have it removed.

Lichens can be killed by a number of toxic washes, the most effective being a four percent copper sulphate solution which has a residual effect that prevents regrowth for several years after the roof has been treated. However, copper sulphate solution attacks aluminium and the zinc coating on galvanized iron, so care must be taken to protect those materials where they occur on the roof. A convenient method of protecting gutters is to have a hose running in the section beneath the area of roof being treated. Alternatively, the downpipes may be blocked temporarily and the gutters filled with water. (Exercise care when applying the solution near valley gutters and chimney flashing).

A plastic container must be used to prepare the solution, which should be applied on a dry day by either brush or brass spray, and left to act on the lichen. Tests have shown that only minute amounts of copper are washed out of treated roofing materials by rain water, so protection is needed only during application. When the gutter system runs into a rainwater tank, the tank should be disconnected until after the first rainfall so that there is no risk of copper sulphate entering drinking supplies.

Commercial grade copper sulphate, known as "blue-stone", is a cheap material, and is available from most hardware stores. Two kilograms of copper sulphate crystals dissolved in 45 litres of water should be sufficient to treat an average-sized roof.

It will be found that the growth, once killed, is not dislodged immediately but is gradually removed by natural weathering over a period of some months. If a quicker result is required the roof should be brushed down, when dry, about a week or so after application."

See also Australian Standard AS 2311-2000 The Painting of Buildings Clause 7.5.4(e) which outlines another suggested method of treatment, based on washing with a solution of Copper Sulphate 20 grams, Ammonium carbonate 70 grams, Water to make 1 litre.

All loose and powdery moss infected areas need to be wire brushed thoroughly prior to the above treatment. Allow treatment to dry off and then rinse surface with clean water before proceeding with normal painting specification which may include further physical removal of lichen debris and rebinding of loose or powdery surfaces with Solver Surface Conditioner, etc. This Copper Sulphate based solution will attack galvanized surfaces and care should be used to avoid such contact. Splashes should be rinsed off with clean water before drying.

### CHANGES SINCE LAST ISSUE:

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