

GALVANISED PARTS – WET STORAGE STAIN (WHITE RUST)

Hot dip galvanising has been used for many years throughout the automotive industry and is widely regarded as one of the best forms of corrosion protection.

When the steel is withdrawn from the galvanising bath it has a clean, bright surface. Over a period of time this changes to a dull grey colour as the surface zinc reacts with oxygen, water and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to form a tough, stable, protective layer.

During this time, if galvanised items are stored in damp or wet conditions, where there is little or no air movement then the zinc will continue to react with the moisture that is present. In so doing the zinc will produce excessive amounts of zinc hydroxide. This is seen as a bulky white deposit on the surface of the galvanising and is often referred to as wet storage stain (white rust).

In order to prevent the occurrence of wet storage stain in the first instance, and to allow the final protective layer to form correctly it is important to ensure that all galvanised parts are stored in good, dry conditions, with sufficient ventilation to allow good air circulation.

Inn the case of trailers and caravans, you can help to prevent wet storage stain (white rust) occurring. You can do this by washing the chassis with clean water as soon as they are delivered. You must then allow an adequate flow of dry air to ensure that they dry off completely.

The caravan should not be parked on long grass where the air flow around the chassis is hindered and the dampness retained. It is most likely that the chassis will rapidly show signs of wet storage stain under these conditions.

It is also very important to do this during the winter months to ensure all salt deposits from road spary are completely rinsed off.

Should wet storage stain (white rust) occur on a product however, then it can sometimes be removed using a stiff bristle brush or a “Scotchbrite” pad.

Because of its post process nature “Wet Storage Stain (white rust) is not covered under Al-Ko’s Warranty procedures. If, however, it can be shown that the galvanising process was defective in some way i.e. areas not galvanised, then an inspection can be arranged and action agreed upon.