
Finishes and Materials

FINISHES ON STEEL

Bare (Suffix BC)

Pregalvanized (Suffix PGC)

A zinc coating is applied by hot-dipping the steel coil at the mill prior to fabrication. Once the material is worked by roll-forming, cutting, or punching, minimal protection is provided for raw edges. This weakness is typical with pre-coated material and affects the channel section around holes, extreme ends, and the edges of the "U" shape lips. Superstrut® pregalvanized material is in conformance with ASTM

A-525/G-90 specification standards, representing 0.90 ounces of zinc per square foot of steel. This finish is often referred to as "hot-dipped mill galvanized" or "mill galvanized."

Electrogalvanized (Suffix EGC)

Often referred to as "zinc plated" or "electroplated zinc," the steel and .5 mils of zinc are bonded by an electrolysis process. Electrogalvanizing is most commonly applied to small fittings, hardware, and threaded products.

GoldGalv® (No Suffix)

Gold colored zinc dichromate is applied over the zinc, producing a chemically bonded non-porous barrier for protection from moisture and air. This extends the protective life of the zinc, and provides an excellent base for paint, if desired.

The GoldGalv® hardware finish also provides a low electrical resistance when grounding of the system is required. Superstrut® channel and fittings are plated after fabrication, so there are no unprotected edges from cutting or punching. Where field cutting is necessary or scratches occur due to construction handling, you still have the sacrificial protection of the plated zinc to minimize the corrosion of raw edges and prevent spreading.

Hot-Dipped Galvanized (Suffix HDGC)

The material is zinc coated after fabrication providing total product protection on all surfaces. The fabricated channel or fitting is suspended and then dipped into tanks of hot zinc for a prolonged period, creating a coherent bond. The result is superior corrosion resistance as compared to pregalvanized material. Hot-dipped galvanizing is not recommended for threaded products, considering the zinc coating thickness will often disrupt the threads. Superstrut® hot-dipped galvanized is in conformance with ASTM Specifications A-123 (formerly A-386) and A-153. Superstrut channels maintain a minimum 1.5 ounces of zinc per square foot of steel or 2.5 mils (ASTM A-123, Thickness Grade 65). This finish is also referred to as "Hot-dipped galvanized after fabrication."

Epoxy Powder Coated — Green, Gray or White (Suffix GR, GY or WH)

Epoxy powder resins are applied electrostatically to the steel after fabrication. Once the material is completely covered with the powder-form epoxy, it proceeds through a 400°F (204°C) baking process for ten minutes, creating a chemical bond. This results in a minimum of 1.5 mil thickness of epoxy coating providing excellent resistance to chipping or peeling.

PVC Coated (Suffix PVC)

A polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic coating is fused to the channel, fitting or accessory after fabrication by immersing the part in fluidized PVC tanks. The fused-melt mixed powder PVC coating thickness is 15 mils (.015") plus or minus five mils. PVC material is a thermoplastic and will soften in high temperature. An inherent weakness with PVC coatings occurs when field alterations are applied, such as cutting or drilling. These acts disrupt the sealed PVC product and warrant field touch-up. Thomas & Betts cannot be held responsible for field-altered PVC coated products.

SPECIAL MATERIALS

Aluminum (Suffix ALC)

Superstrut® channel is available in aluminum. Fittings in HDG finish or fiberglass material are suggested for fastening products.

Stainless Steel

Superstrut® channel is supplied in Type 304 (SS) and Type 316 (T316L) stainless steel. All fittings and accessories are in 316SS (SS6). Contact your regional sales office for availability.

Thomas & Betts reserves the right to change material and finish specifications without notice, to improve its products.