



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is FIRECOAT?**

*FSA FIRECOAT* is a tough and durable water-based undercoat paint designed for both interior and exterior applications. *FIRECOAT Interior* can be used on timber and plasterboard. *FIRECOAT Exterior* can be used on various substrates, including existing render, timber, aluminium, steel, concrete, plasterboard, and brick. You can apply it using spray, roller, or brush methods.

*FIRECOAT Exterior* is uniquely rated to BAL-40 for **extreme fire protection, making it suitable for areas prone to bushfires.**

## **What is BAL-40?**

The BAL rating is the Australian standard for measuring the risk of a home's exposure to ember attack, radiant heat, and direct flame contact. The BAL rating determines the construction and building requirements necessary to protect homes in bushfire prone areas. There are six levels of the BAL rating in accordance with the Australian Standard – *AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas*. We've detailed each of the BAL ratings, along with what they mean, in the table below.

BAL	Description of risk - Bush Fire Attack Level
BAL – LOW	Lowest risk from a potential fire.
BAL – 12.5	Risk is primarily from potential embers during a fire.
BAL – 19	Moderate risk, particularly from embers and burning debris.
BAL – 29	High risk, particularly from embers, debris and heat.
<b>BAL – 40</b>	<b>Very high risk. Likely to be impacted by embers, debris, heat and potentially flames.</b>
BAL – FZ	Extreme risk. Directly exposed to the flames of a potential fire front.

Source: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/building-after-bush-fire/your-level-of-risk>

The higher the BAL rating, the more susceptible the structure is to bushfire-related damage.

## **Is FIRECOAT Exterior BAL-40 rated?**

Yes, *FIRECOAT Exterior* is indeed BAL-40 rated. This rating certifies that *FIRECOAT Exterior* can deter ignition, burning, and flaming caused by wind-borne embers, debris, exposure to flames, and high heat flux. It provides significant protection for your property and belongings in high-risk bushfire-prone areas.

## **What rating does FIRECOAT interior have?**

*FIRECOAT Interior* is classified as EN 13501-1 (Bs1/d0) in accreditations EN 13823 & EN ISO 11925-2. This represents the highest flame-retardant rating for internal paint.

## **How often do I need to re-coat with FIRECOAT Exterior?**

*FIRECOAT Exterior* will last at least 10 years when applied to exterior surfaces as instructed, with or without a topcoat.

## **Is FIRECOAT toxic?**

No, *FIRECOAT* is water-based and non-toxic. It is safe for human handling and will not irritate eyes or skin upon contact.

## **How do I clean my brushes and rollers after using FIRECOAT?**

Clean-up is a breeze with *FIRECOAT* - just use water to clean your brushes and rollers like any other water-based paints.



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## ***Is there any special application process for FIRECOAT?***

No, *FIRECOAT* is applied in the same manner as any other undercoat paint. To ensure maximum fire protection, apply it to the specified minimum thickness, which can be found on the product tin. Just make sure prior to use, you stir the contents thoroughly using a paint paddle or a power mixer. Ensure paint is mixed from bottom to top of the tin.

## ***Where is FIRECOAT made?***

*FIRECOAT* has been designed by scientists from University of New South Wales and proudly manufactured in Australia.

## ***What colour does FIRECOAT come in?***

*FIRECOAT* Exterior is light grey and *FIRECOAT* Interior is white. You can easily paint over it with your choice of topcoat, just like any other undercoat paint, to achieve your desired colour.

## ***Is my property warranted against burning if I use FIRECOAT?***

No, your property is not warranted against burning in the event of a bushfire. There are numerous variables in a bushfire situation. However, using *FIRECOAT* according to its application instructions will substantially improve the protection of your home from bushfire threats.

## ***What if the fire starts inside the house?***

Using *FIRECOAT* Interior on your walls and especially ceilings will enhance your chances of reducing the spread of fire within your home.

## ***How does FIRECOAT compare to other fire-resistant paints on the market?***

*FIRECOAT* stands out as the top choice amongst fire-resistant paints on the market due to its exceptional performance, durability, and unique features.

Here is why it outshines the competition:

1. Unparalleled Performance: *FIRECOAT* has been rigorously tested and proven to provide exceptional fire protection. It provides reliable protection against combustion of flammable surfaces and the spread of flames, making it a superior choice for safeguarding your property and assets.
2. Durability: *FIRECOAT* maintains its effectiveness and durability even after years of exposure. It provides long-lasting fire protection for your peace of mind.
3. Ease of Application: One of *FIRECOAT*'s standout features is its user-friendly application process. DIY enthusiasts can easily apply it, eliminating the need for costly professional application. This does not only save you money but also empowers you to take control of your fire protection needs.
4. Cost-Effective: *FIRECOAT* provides a cost-effective solution for fire protection of your property. Unlike other competitive products you can buy *FIRECOAT* from Bunnings and apply the product without having to pay for a licensed professional applicator to do it for you.
5. Versatile Use: *FIRECOAT* is suitable for a wide range of applications (residential and commercial buildings) and substrates, including existing render, timber, aluminium, steel, concrete, plasterboard, and brick. Its versatility makes it a valuable choice for both homeowners and businesses looking to enhance fire safety.
6. Compliance with Safety Standards: *FIRECOAT* complies with industry safety standards and regulations, ensuring that it meets the highest quality and safety benchmarks.



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In summary, *FIRECOAT* sets itself apart as the ultimate fire- protection paint option on the market. Its unbeatable combination of performance, durability, ease of application, and cost-effectiveness makes it the preferred choice for anyone seeking superior fire protection. Whether you're a DIY enthusiast or a property owner, *FIRECOAT* provides additional safety and peace of mind.

## ***Can you paint the roof and protect it?***

Depending on the roofing material, it may be possible to paint it. However, it's important to note that most fires start in roof spaces due to embers igniting gutter litter and infiltrating the roof space. It is highly recommended that you keep your gutters clean and seal all gaps around roof space to prevent ember penetration.

## ***Can I use FIRECOAT on surfaces that have already been painted with a different type of paint?***

Yes, you can but prior to application all surfaces should be clean, dry, free from dust, oil, wax, grease, dirt, resin and any loose or flaking paint. Existing coatings with poor adhesion must be completely removed. Timber moisture content should not exceed 15%.

## ***Is there a recommended temperature range for applying FIRECOAT?***

Only apply and cure *FIRECOAT* when the temperature is at least 10 °C with good air circulation and a relative humidity no greater than 75%.

## ***What equipment can I use to apply FIRECOAT?***

Do not thin *FIRECOAT*. We recommend the following equipment for ease of application:

- **Brush:** Use top quality polyester/nylon blend brush or similar.
- **Roller:** Use 20mm or greater polyester blend nap roller.
- **Airless spray:** Use airless spray with a minimum 1 GPM rating at 3000 psi such as Graco 795, 1095 or similar. Tip: 521-623 or similar with pressure of 2100 psi or higher.

Due to the unique properties of *FIRECOAT* it is important to use an airless spray gun with the right specification as others may clog.

Wear appropriate clothing and PPE (personal protective equipment) as you would when applying other water-based paints.

## ***Does FIRECOAT have any specific storage requirements?***

Store at temperature between 5-35°C and store away from direct sunlight and extreme heat. Keep containers closed when not in use and keep out of reach of children and pets.

## ***How long does it take for FIRECOAT to dry and cure?***

4 to 5 hours, based on a day of around 24°C, with good air circulation and a relative humidity below 50%. Under cooler or humid conditions allow longer drying times.

Temperature must be above 10°C during application and drying times.

Make sure the paint is thoroughly dry to touch before applying the next coat. Failure to do so may lead to cracking and peeling between coats. Full hardness is achieved after 7 days.

## ***How do I properly dispose of leftover FIRECOAT and paint containers?***

Do not pour leftover paint down the drain. Unwanted paint should be brushed out on newspaper and allowed to dry, and then disposed of via domestic waste collections. Empty containers should be left open in a well-ventilated area to dry out. When dry, recycle through local recycle programs. Do not reuse the container unless thoroughly decontaminated. For more information on responsible disposal of paint and packaging visit [paintback.com.au](http://paintback.com.au).



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## ***Besides FIRECOAT, what else can I do to help protect my home from fire?***

You can take additional measures to protect your home from bushfires.

Visit the [Your Home Government website](#) for more ideas on bushfire protection.

Some low-cost options include:

- Sealing all gaps around the house with appropriately specified joining strips or flexible silicon-based sealant.
- Installing appropriately specified building membranes behind weatherboards or other external cladding when they are being replaced.
- Installing appropriately specified building membranes beneath existing roofing (especially tiled roofs) when it is being replaced for maintenance.
- Installing draught excluders at the base of side-hung doors, and draught seals around window and door frames.
- Sealing vents and weep holes in external walls with aluminium mesh (<2mm gap).
- Sealing around roofing and roof penetrations with appropriately specified flexible silicon-based sealant.
- Installing non-combustible gutter guards.
- Putting non-combustible metal mesh over areas of windows and doors where they can be opened.
- Reducing the amount of bushfire fuel around the house to create an asset protection zone or a defensible space.

## ***Are there any other FIRECOAT products under development?***

Yes, there are more *FIRECOAT* products under development to enhance home protection against the threat of bushfires. Stay tuned for updates on our latest offerings.

## ***What should I do in the event of a bushfire?***

In the event of a bushfire, it is recommended that you leave your property as soon as possible and following any advice provided by your local fire-fighting service.

For further guidance and tips on protecting yourself and your property during a bushfire, refer to the [Rural Fire Service website](#).