



10 KEY BENEFITS OF GALVANIZED STEEL

The use of galvanizing for structural steel protection offers ten major, measurable benefits.

- 1. *Lowest first cost.*** Galvanizing is lower in first cost than many other commonly specified protective coatings for steel. (The application cost of labour-intensive coatings such as painting has risen far more than the cost of factory operations such as galvanizing.)
- 2. *Less maintenance/Lowest long-term cost.*** Even in cases where the initial cost of galvanizing is higher than alternative coatings, galvanizing is almost invariably cheapest in the long term (because it lasts longer and needs less maintenance). And maintenance causes problems and adds to costs when structures are located in remote areas, and when plant shutdown or disruption to production is involved.
- 3. *Long life.*** The life expectancy of galvanized coatings on typical structural members is far in excess of 50 years in most rural environments, and 20 to 25 years plus, even in severe urban and coastal exposure.
- 4. *Reliability.*** Galvanizing is carried out to Australian / New Zealand Standard 4680, and standard, minimum coating thicknesses are applied. Coating life and performance are reliable and predictable.
- 5. *Toughest coating.*** A galvanized coating has a unique metallurgical structure which gives outstanding resistance to mechanical damage in transport, erection, and service.
- 6. *Automatic protection for damaged areas.*** Galvanized coatings corrode preferentially to steel, providing cathodic or sacrificial protection to small areas of steel exposed through damage. Unlike organic coatings, small, damaged areas need no touch up.
- 7. *Complete protection.*** Every part of a galvanized article is protected, even recesses, sharp corners, and inaccessible areas. No coating applied to a structure or fabrication after completion can provide the same protection.
- 8. *Ease of inspection.*** Galvanized coatings are assessed readily by eye, and simple non-destructive thickness testing methods can be used. The galvanizing process is such that if coatings appear sound and continuous, they are sound and continuous.
- 9. *Faster erection time.*** As galvanized steel members are received, they are ready for use. No time is lost on-site in surface preparation, painting, and inspection. When assembly of the structure is complete, it is immediately ready for use, or for the next construction stage.
- 10. *A full protective coating can be applied in minutes;*** The galvanizing process is not dependent on weather conditions

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