



MET-L-ETCH®

Steel Cleaner

W4K288

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 is a phosphoric acid based, multi-purpose cleaner and conditioner for metal. W4-K288 removes oxidation and deep cleans metal surfaces by lifting contaminants for easy rinsing. MET-L-ETCH® deposits a thin layer of iron phosphate that prevents flash rusting, promotes paint adhesion, and improves corrosion resistance.

TECHNICAL DATA:

• Color	Clear, colorless	• Freezing point	32°F
• Photochemically reactive	No	• Flash point	None
• Viscosity	Consistency of water	• Treatment area	1,600 sq. ft./ gallon

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES:

Cold rolled steel, iron, long terne (lead coated), galvaneal steel, galvanized steel, PAINT-GRIP¹, and polished aluminum and castings (when clearcoating only).

SURFACE PREPARATION:

1. To remove dirt and water-soluble contaminants, wash with mild detergent and hot water. Rinse well and wipe dry with a clean cloth.
2. To remove grease, oil, and other solvent soluble contaminants, solvent clean metal substrate with SHER-WILL-CLEAN® Solvent Cleaner R7-K156 or AQUA-MATE™ Low VOC Surface Cleaner W4-K157. Wipe dry with a clean cloth.
3. Remove rust and oxidation by sanding or grinding.
4. Apply W4-K288 to further remove oxidation or rust.
5. If metal is heavily rusted, pitted, or oxidized, remove by sandblasting to obtain a rust free, white metal surface. Do not use MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 if metal has been sandblasted.

(For the above products refer to product label or data page for complete information)

MIXING:

Mix in clean plastic containers only.

Dilute one part by volume of MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 with two parts of clean water.

For best results, use distilled water.

APPLICATION:

Cold rolled steel, iron, long terne (lead coated), galvaneal steel, and PAINT-GRIP®

1. Protect areas not to be treated with polyethylene sheets and masking tape. Apply masking tape to seams into which solution may collect. Do not allow W4-K288 to enter seams or collect in areas that cannot be properly rinsed and dried.
2. Apply diluted W4-K288 to bare metal by brush, nylon scuff pad, spray, or dip. Keep surface wet for one to three minutes. If surface is allowed to dry, re-wet with W4-K288 for an additional one to three minutes.
3. Rinse well with clean water. Water should curtain with no breaks or beading, if this occurs, repeat step 2.
4. Blow-dry with clean, high-pressure air if going directly to primer system.
5. For maximum corrosion protection follow with MET-L-MATE® Conversion Coating W4-K289. Or, apply CORROSION SHIELD® E2-G973, G.B.P.® Etching Filler E2-G980 or E2-G983. Refer to individual Product Data Sheets.

Note: Do not use MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 below 60°F.

RECOATING:

1. Recoat using any Sherwin-Williams Automotive primer. For maximum corrosion protection, follow W4-K288 with W4-K289, or CORROSION SHIELD® E2-G973, G.B.P.® Etching Filler E2-G980 or E2-G983. Recoat within four hours of metal conditioner application.
3. Follow with a Sherwin-Williams Automotive topcoat compatible with the primer system.

NOTING:

1. MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 contains phosphoric acid. Read and follow all label cautions. Wear protective clothing, rubber gloves, and eyewear.
2. Mix and store in plastic containers only. Do not use metal containers.
3. Do not apply with steel wool. Use nylon scuff pad when abrasive action is needed.
4. Protect MET-L-ETCH® W4-K288 from freezing.

¹PAINT-GRIP® is a registered trademark of the ARMCO STEEL Corporation.

²Alodine® 1001 is a registered trademark of the Henkel Corp.

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PRODUCT AT-A-GLANCE

PRODUCT

MET-L-ETCH® Steel cleaner

W4K288

USE

- Deep cleans and conditions metal substrates.
- Removes oxidation, rust, and corrosion.
- Insures paint adhesion and promotes corrosion protection.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

- Cold rolled steel
- Iron
- Galvanized steel
- Galvaneal Steel
- Paint-Grip®

SURFACE PREPARATION

- **Wash** with a mild detergent and water. Rinse well and wipe dry with clean cloth.
- **Solvent clean** with the SHER-WILL-CLEAN® Solvent Cleaner R7K156 or AQUA-MATE® Low VOC Surface Cleaner W4K157.

MIXING

- Dilute 1 part by volume of MET-L-ETCH® W4K288 with 2 parts clean water.
For best results, use distilled water.



APPLICATION

- Apply diluted solution to metal with nylon scuff pad, brush, or dip.
- Allow contact for 1-3 minutes. Do not allow solution to dry; if it does, re-apply.
- Rinse well with clean water.
- Blow dry with clean, high pressure air.

RECOAT

Sealers

ULTRA-FILL II® Sealer
JET SEAL® Primer-Sealer
PRIME-SHIELD® 4.6 Epoxy
PRIME-SHIELD® Urethane
SHER-JET™ 3.5 Enamel Sealer
SHER-LOK™ 3.5 Epoxy

Primer-Surfacers

ULTRA-FILL II® Primer-Surfacer
COLOR-PRIME® Tintable Primer-Surfacer
ULTRA-FILL® Acrylic Primer-Surfacer
SuperCOMBO® Primer-Surfacer
CORROSION SHIELD® Primer
G.B.P.® Etching Filler
ULTRA-FILL® HS/NP Primers

NOTES

- Mix and store in clean plastic containers.
- Do not apply with steel wool. Use nylon scuff pad when abrasive action is needed.
- MET-L-ETCH® contains acid. Handle with care.
- Protect MET-L-ETCH® W4K288 from freezing.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Read all label directions before use.
- Refer to MSDS for specific information.
- Wear a NIOSH approved respirator when mixing and applying.
- Wear a NIOSH approved dust particulate mask when sanding.
- Wear safety glasses, coveralls, and latex gloves when using product.

To learn more about Sherwin-Williams Automotive products, visit our Web site at www.sherwin-automotive.com