



## APPLICATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

Firefree Exterior Topcoat (“FfE”) is a premium, 100% acrylic exterior protective coating. FfE is listed and inspected by the International Code Council (“ICC”).

FfE is to be used exclusively over surfaces previously coated with Firefree Class A (“FfA”) or Firefree 88 (“Ff88”), to improve the durability of such products if used in exterior applications in strict compliance with Firefree Coatings (“Firefree”)’s recommendations. There can be no substitution of FfE as this proprietary acrylic topcoat has passed the weatherization test (ASTM D2898, method B) over the Firefree intumescent coatings. Any substitution would void any warranty express or implied.

While FfE’s application is similar to applying any acrylic exterior paint, FfE is a specialty coating and it needs to be applied by an experienced, professional painter, in strict compliance with the instructions below (including the thickness recommended by Firefree Coatings). **It is the sole responsibility of the customer to choose an experienced, qualified applicator for the Product and ensure that such applicator applies the Product in strict compliance with the Application Instructions and applies the recommended thickness.**

### **SURFACE PREPARATION**

FfE is designed to be applied on top of Firefree Class A or Firefree 88. The underlying coat of FfA or Ff88 must be thoroughly dry before FfE is applied (see FfA or Ff88 Application Instructions as applicable). All surfaces must be covered with FfA or Ff88. Such FfA or Ff88 covered surface must be dry and clean before FfE is applied.

### **WEATHER**

FfE should only be applied when material, air, and surface temperatures are above 50°F (10°C) or below 95°F (35°C) and will remain within such temperature range for at least 24 hours. Temperatures must remain above 5° above the dew point during application and drying time. Do not expose to rain, fog or any moisture during application and drying time. Application during extreme weather conditions (including winter) is not recommended. Limit exposure to heavy moisture for at least 10 days after application is completed.

### **CURING**

Specialty paints require up to 30 days after final application for full cure and maximum performance. Cure times vary depending on air circulation and environmental conditions.

### **DRYING TIME**

Drying times depend on several factors, including those below, and can vary from 4 to 48 hours, or longer, for each coat:

- **Temperature.**
- **Air movement.**
- **Humidity.** We do not recommend applying the coating if relative humidity exceeds 75%.
- **Moisture.** Measure the moisture content of surfaces using a moisture meter. Do not apply if the moisture content is more than 12%.
- **Thickness of product applied.**
- **Method of application.**

For more information, please contact Firefree Coatings.

## MULTIPLE COATS

Make sure that each coat of FfE is **thoroughly dry to the touch** before applying the next coat.

## APPLICATION METHOD

FfE can be applied by airless sprayer, roller, or brush. If you need to strain FfE only use a gauze the size used in fly screen doors. **DO NOT THIN FIREFREE EXTERIOR TOPCOAT.**

**Spray (Airless):** Recommended low pressure tip size; use .013" (0.033 cm) - .015 (0.038 cm). Follow recommendation of pressure range set by tip manufacturer. heavy duty 4" to 12 "(10.16 cm to 30.48 cm) fan width recommended.

**Roller:** use 3/8" - 3/4" (9.53 - 19.05 mm) nap synthetic cover for heavy application. Other rollers may be used depending on desired finish.

**Brush:** use a Nylon/Polyester Brush. A laying on technique will reduce the brush marking.

## WET FILM THICKNESS (WFT) and DRY FILM THICKNESS (DFT)

The recommended thickness for FfE is: 12 mils wet / 6 mils dry, **MUST BE applied in two coats at 6 mils wet / 3 mils dry per coat.** The coverage rate is 110 sq ft/gal (2.70m<sup>2</sup>/L) at 6 mils dry.

**The dry film thickness recommended by Firefree needs to be precisely complied with for adequate performance,** thus during application, the wet film thickness should be checked using a wet film thickness gauge. The final DFT needs also to be verified, *see third-party inspection below.*

Thus, always use a wet mil film gauge to measure each wet coat application. Each coat application can be built up to different levels of wet mil thicknesses using multiple passes of coating with an airless spray gun, brush, or roller. To measure the desired film thickness required, during application process, use a wet film thickness gauge to monitor the wet film thickness being applied.



**Read instructions on gauge for proper use.**

## DFT THIRD PARTY INSPECTION

In addition to measure WFT per above, as this is a life safety issue, Firefree Coatings ("Firefree") requires that all surfaces to which the Product was applied be inspected a by third party special inspection agency, or an ICC-ES certified professional, of a Firefree QA/QC qualified inspector to verify that the Product has been properly applied in the required uniform thickness. To obtain a list of inspections agencies, go to [www.psiusa.com](http://www.psiusa.com), or [www.terracon.com](http://www.terracon.com). The hiring of an independent inspector is the responsibility of the contractor or customer. *See Appendixes to the FfA Product Data Sheet for recommended DFT.*

## COLOR, FINISH, AND USE OF TOPCOAT OVER FfE

FfE comes in a white color and two different bases (white & deep), satin finish. Both bases are tintable to most colors (white base not to exceed 4oz per tint/gal, deep base not to exceed 12oz per tint/gal). Contact your local paint store to enquire about universal compatible tint and for assistance with tinting choice and process. In some cases, improper tinting can contribute to surfactant leaching, see below.

For interior use, if a different color or finish is desired, FfA can also be top coated with most premium latex paints to achieve a different color and finish. Contact your local paint store for assistance with choice of a compatible topcoat.

#### **SURFACTANT LEACHING**

Occasionally surfactant leaching might happen. It is a common issue in the paint industry (although improper application can make it worse). As your experienced contractor will explain, it will often correct itself over time. For more information, please ask your paint store or contractor, or see an industry overview at <https://www.firefree.com/fire-retardant-fire-resistant-paint-products/downloads.php?m=pdsd>.

#### **MAINTENANCE**

Surfaces which have been coated with FfE should be protected from abuse and abrasion. Damaged surfaces should be repaired and new FfE should be applied to the original recommended dry film thickness to maintain specific rating.

#### **CLEAN UP**

Wash brushes, rollers, spray guns & pumps and other painting tools in COLD clean water promptly after painting. Clean and remove any dried product. Use all products completely or dispose of properly. Local disposal requirements vary; consult your sanitation department or state-designated agency for more information on disposal options.

#### **SAFETY**

Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Do not take internally. Use personal protective clothing, including safety glasses to prevent any particles of paint from entering the eyes. Protective gloves are recommended for prolonged contact exposure. Respiratory protection is recommended, but not required; however, make sure plenty of ventilation is allowed. Protective half masks can be used when painting to prevent breathing paint dust or particles from entering the lungs. Wash thoroughly after handling. Close container after each use. Keep out of reach of children.

For additional safety information consult the Safety Data Sheet for this product.

#### **DISPOSAL**

Never pour leftover coating down any sink or drain. Use up material on the job or seal can and store safely. Do not incinerate. For specific disposal or recycle guidelines, contact your local waste management agency or district. Always attempt to recycle whenever possible.

#### **STORAGE AND TEMPERATURE**

FfE cannot be exposed to freezing temperatures or exposed continuously to direct sunlight. FfE needs to be stored at temperatures between 50°F and 85°F (10°C to 29°C). Expected shelf life is two years from date of manufacture (DOM). Product must be kept in storage temperature conditions and in original unopened containers.

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

FIREFREE® Coatings, Inc is the leading developer of high-quality fire retardant and fire-resistant intumescent coatings that will help reduce the spread of fire, minimize smoke and toxic gases that would occur during a fire, thus giving occupants extra time to evacuate a building safely and limiting destruction of property. Our products are fire tested at a third-party accredited International Accreditation Service (IAS) testing laboratory. FfE is ICC Listed/Inspected.

Firefree Coatings is deeply committed to human safety and environmental issues and is strongly positioned to meet the increasing demand for fire safety benefits for commercial, governmental, residential, and other advanced markets. Firefree Coatings is a member of NFPA, ICC and ASTM E-05 Committee.

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