



## **Achieve Longer-Lasting Coatings Through Superior Surface Preparation**

Achieving total cleanliness will ensure longer-lasting coatings. The final stages of surface preparation are the most critical and the most often neglected. Many of the available tools simply do not deal with late-stage surface preparation adequately or efficiently.

### **The Problem: Good Surface Preparation Is Often Not Good Enough**

While most people in the maintenance painting world agree in principle that good surface preparation is essential to optimize coating performance and to minimize coating failures, in practice, poor surface preparation is often the rule rather than the exception. Removing old paint, rust, and other visible contaminants, and producing a proper surface profile, is good. It is simply not good enough. There are also invisible contaminants to consider—those that were on the surface before blasting (typically salts of various kinds) and those that were created by blasting (dust consisting of pulverized coating, rust, and blast abrasives). In the short run, these will cause flash rust; in the long run, they will shorten the life of coatings and increase the likelihood of premature coating failure.

Conventional rust inhibitors, or products that passivate the surface, address the result, but not the cause, of flash rusting. They often leave a film or residue on the surface, solving one problem while causing another: a barrier between a primer or coating and the surface to which it is meant to adhere.



Similarly, conventional salt removers often measurably increase the conductivity of the surface, because of their chemical composition. This is bad for coating adhesion. There are a number of tools on the market that test for salts. Those that test for conductivity (rather than for specific salts) tell the whole story of contamination and of the residue conventional products leave behind. Again, like conventional rust inhibitors, conventional salt removers solve one problem by creating another that might be worse. It's like taking a drug that kills one disease and creates another.

### **The Solution: A Truly Clean Surface**

To achieve cleanliness—by removing ALL contaminants—and to prevent flash rust, which is in large part a result of contamination, there is only one product available: **HoldTight® 102**.

This simple yet effective one-step solution is revolutionizing surface preparation.

**HoldTight®102** is used to clean without flash rusting, after dry blasting, during and after wet- or vapor-abrasive blasting, and during and after high-pressure water blasting. It is a liquid added to the blast water and/or wash down water at a ratio ranging from 1 to 50, to 1 to 100 or higher, depending on the application. By evaporating with the water in which it has been dissolved, **HoldTight®102** leaves no detectible residue behind. It does not require any subsequent stripping or washing. By both removing all contaminants and preventing flash rust for 48 hours



or more, **HoldTight®102** eliminates the need for separate products to remove salts and prevent flash rust, and it is environmentally safe, non-hazardous, non-toxic, and biodegradable.

### **Conclusion: The Difference is Clear**

When it comes to properly preparing a surface to ensure that any coating performs as intended, maximizing cleanliness is the way to go. When a surface is fully clean, the window of time before flash rusting and before a primer or coating must be applied is longer. Marshalling and organizing people and equipment to do a job, especially a large one, can be dramatically streamlined because their time is used more efficiently. Even in a complex and challenging world, as the world of maintenance painting has become, sometimes the best answers are the simplest, and in this case, the simplest answer is **HoldTight®102**.