

Corten steel

Properties

Corten steel has a rusty surface, which makes the product virtually maintenance-free.

Corten steel is steel that is alloyed with copper, chromium, nickel and phosphorus. The alloy causes Corten steel, when exposed to alternating moisture and drying out, to form a rust layer, which then acts as a barrier to oxygen, moisture and chemical influences. Therefore, the rust layer protects it from further rust. During the process, Corten steel changes colour from a light rust red to a darker reddish brown. The process is completed after 2-3 years.

The lifespan of Corten steel depends on the thickness of the steel and the possibility of drying out. In ideal conditions the lifespan is 50 years or more. Corten steel with ground contact (e.g plant boxes) does not dry out regularly, and the lifespan will be 5-7 years per millimetre of steel.

Operation and maintenance

Contamination

- Upon first use: A new Corten steel product will release rust, which will fall off in flakes or run off with rainwater. There may be contamination to the substrate and other contact surfaces. To avoid contamination, it is recommended that the Corten steel product be subjected to corrosion (rain) in a suitable place for up to three months before being placed in the permanent location.
- Ground contact: Continued contamination can occur from Corten steel products that are in contact with soil (e.g plant boxes) and therefore do not dry out regularly.

Cleaning

- Clean the product with a stiff broom or brush
- For a more thorough cleaning, the product can be pressure washed

Maintenance

- Make sure that there is no water in depressions or joints on the product

End of Life Guide

- Ask your local waste management authority or disposal service for correct recycling or disposal of corten steel