

Materials



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Other finishes



Plastic dip-coating

Polythene is a common thermoplastic powder which is used for dip coating. Air is blown through the powder which makes it act like a liquid. Before dipping the metal is pre heated to 180 degrees and it is then dipped in the fluidised powder and returned to the oven where it melts to form a smooth finish. It is used commercially for products such as dishwasher racks. It is often used on school projects for coat hooks and tool handles.



Plastic dip-coating



Powder coating

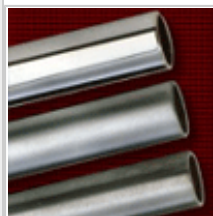
Powder coating is similar to plastic dip coating but is a more sophisticated process which is mainly used in industry. The powder is sprayed onto products which run through an oven. Powder coating is exceptionally hard-wearing. Current powder coating technology provides a finish similar to paint and is available in all colours and even has a clear option.

Anodising

Anodising is a process used on aluminium to provide a hard-wearing corrosion-resistant finish. The anodising process involves electrolysis and uses acids and electric currents. Colour can be added to the anodising process to tint the aluminium. Anodising is the most common finishing process used on aluminium.



Anodising



Plating

Plating is another process used on aluminium which uses electrolysis. There are many types although chromium plating is by far the most common. The thin plating layer of metal on the surface provides a durable finish on metals which are prone to corrosion.

Galvanising

Galvanising involves dipping metal into a bath of molten zinc. The zinc provides a good corrosion resistant finish although it does not look that appealing.



Galvanising

Useful web links



How stuff works

Learn more about the material finishes from how stuff works website.

[View the tep web page >>](#)

Technology student

Revise about symbols that appear on paint containers.

[View the technology student site >>](#)



Self-finishing

Self-finishing

Many products are self finished, for example injected moulded products. The mould is highly polished which means that the same highly polished surface is transferred onto each product.

Enamelling

Some metals can be enamelled especially copper. Enamel starts out as a powdered glass mixture this is applied over the outside of the metal. The metal is then heated to 1000°C and the powdered glass mixture melts. The metal is then cooled and the powdered glass mixture forms a hard decorative coating. Enamelling is good for cookers, baths, pans, etc.



Enamelling



Quiz time!

Mr DT says 'Read the text above and then answer these questions below'. Write your answers on a sheet of paper, don't forget to write your name on the sheet!:-

- 1.) What products is plastic dip coating used on?
- 2.) What is the difference between plastic dip coating and powder coating?
- 3.) Why is the anodising process used on aluminium?
- 4.) What is the most common type of plating?
- 5.) Why is galvanising not necessarily the best finish for metal?
- 6.) Name a type of self finished product?
- 7.) What is the best type of metal to enamel?
- 8.) Briefly describe the enamelling process?



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