



CUTTING & EDGE PROTECTION

Correct cutting and edge protection are essential to maintain the long-term performance and appearance of coated metal roof and wall sheets.

Improper cutting methods can damage protective coatings, expose bare metal, and lead to premature corrosion.

Approved Cutting Methods

Always use cold-cutting tools that do not generate heat or sparks:

- Powered nibblers or shears – for clean, precise cuts.
- Guillotines or bench shears – ideal for straight factory or on-site cuts.
- Hand snips – for small adjustments and trimming flashings.

These methods preserve the integrity of the coating and protective zinc or aluminium layer beneath.

Prohibited Cutting Methods

Never use:

- Angle grinders
- Abrasive wheels
- Plasma or hot-cutting tools

These methods produce excessive heat, which can:

- Burn or discolour the coating.
- Remove or melt the galvanised layer.
- Embed hot metal swarf into nearby surfaces, leading to rust marks and coating failure.

After Cutting

To ensure long-term protection:

1. Remove all swarf and filings immediately using a soft brush or clean cloth.
2. Clean and dry any exposed metal edges.
3. Apply Briarwood-approved touch-up paint or coating to all cut or drilled edges.
4. Avoid cutting or drilling directly over installed sheets — always use a separate cutting area.
5. Dispose of metal debris responsibly to prevent contamination on site.

Drilling & Edge Finishing

- Drill at low speed using sharp HSS bits to avoid heat build-up.
- Remove burrs around holes before fixing.
- Ensure that fasteners seat correctly without over-tightening or damaging washers.
- Clean both faces of the panel after drilling to prevent rust spots from trapped swarf.

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