
Corrosion on the surface due to external effects (flash rust)

Topic number	LI98.00-N-037818
Version	1
Design group	98.00 General
Date	02-16-2006
Validity	Sprinter MY02-06
Reason for change	Distribution expanded.

Complaint:

Spots of corrosion on the entire vehicle or on partial areas of the paint surface

Attachments	
File	Designation
Flugrost_Dach_Vito.JPG	Flash rust on Vito roof
Flugrost_Sprinter_Fuehrungsschiene.JPG	Flash rust on Sprinter guide rail
Flugrost_Sprinter_Seitenwand.JPG	Flash rust on Sprinter side wall
Flugrost_Sprinter_Stosfanger.JPG	Flash rust on Sprinter bumper 1
Flugrost_Sprinter_Stosfanger_2.JPG	Flash rust on Sprinter bumper 2
Flugrost_Sprinter_Radlauf_Fahrertur_links.jpg	Flash rust on Sprinter wheelhouse at left driver door

Cause:

Loose chippings, gritting salt, rail wear debris, trolley line wear debris, chemical fallout from foundries and ironworks, and construction sites can leave fine deposits of metal shavings on the paint surface, which then corrode relatively quickly due to air humidity. A firm bond is produced between the particles and the paint. Welding and grinding work also produces hot metal particles which fly around and can cause damage of this kind. Under the effects of weathering and UV radiation, these spots or areas of corrosion penetrate the top coat and can leave depressions in the surface of the paint which, if left to act for a long time, advance through the healthy paintwork as far as the metal panel and cause damage that can only be repaired by repainting.

Also this effect can often be observed on detachable plastic parts such as the horizontal surfaces of the front and rear bumpers.

Remedy:

If the metal dust is not properly removed, then only the consequence of the metal dust, i.e. the surface corrosion, is removed. The iron particles are left behind in the paint and will corrode again in a very short time.

To eliminate the problem completely a metal dust remover must be used that releases the metal dust from the paint. Because of the oxalic acid contained in the metal dust remover, the treated surface must then be polished and preserved.

Regular and proper care helps to preserve the value of the vehicle. The best protection against harmful environmental influences is regular washing and preservation.

Recommendation of the paint manufacturers: Apply preservation agent to the vehicle twice a year, in early spring and early fall.

Note: Due to recent events please remember that flash rust is an external phenomenon and is not a deficiency for which the manufacturer can be held responsible. Accordingly, this damage cannot be billed through warranty or goodwill channels.

Symptoms
Overall vehicle / Paint/corrosion / Paint damage / Environmental influences
Overall vehicle / Paint/corrosion / Paint damage / Foreign influence
Overall vehicle / Paint/corrosion / Corrosion / General rust formation
Overall vehicle / Paint/corrosion / Corrosion / Flash rust