

# Accuride Steel Armor™

Revolutionary coating technology.  
Combating corrosion for extended wheel life.

POWERFUL CORROSION PROTECTION | SUPERIOR FINISH | REDUCED REFINISHING COSTS

Five Year  
Warranty  
Against  
Corrosion



Your only single source for industry-leading wheel end solutions.  
STEEL & ALUMINUM WHEELS | DRUMS | HUBS | ROTORS | SLACK ADJUSTERS



## Corrosion eats fleets. Don't let it consume yours.

It's tough out there. Blistering heat. Blinding snow. Torrential downpours. Gravel and other road debris. All eat away at the finish on your wheels. Sand, road salt and harsh chemicals used to keep highways clear of ice and snow create a corrosive cocktail that deteriorates today's standard wheel finishes. These liquid de-icers create a penetrating mist that attacks wheels and other exposed surfaces and speeds corrosion of the steel substrate. It isn't pretty. Unfortunately, what makes these chemicals so effective in fighting ice also makes them the undisputed heavyweight champions of corrosion.

**Rust and Corrosion:** The ATA Technology and Maintenance Council estimates that rust and corrosion represent as much as a \$4 billion per year loss for fleets. You already know what you spend on refinishing, repairs and unexpected road calls. Disregard rust, and those unsightly wheels could trigger CSA inspections that yield violations, fines and a drop in your CSA score.



## Problem solved Accuride's revolutionary coating technology - Steel Armor™

Steel Armor™ solves your wheel-corrosion headache. Think premium rust protection. More miles of service over the life of your wheels. A superior finish that looks great and lasts longer, reducing maintenance costs. Our proprietary powder coat process and technology makes all this possible. And it comes with a standard five year warranty<sup>(\*)</sup>. Only from Accuride.

Our Steel Armor™ steel wheel powder coating technology employs a proprietary three-phase protection process that is unique to Accuride. Improving the look and life of your wheels. That's Steel Armor™. It's the clear choice to ensure you get the maximum life from your steel wheels.

**Proprietary  
Powder Coat**

**Epoxy E-Coat with  
Best-in-Class  
Sharp Edge Protection**

**Zinc Phosphate  
Pre-Treatment**

### Powerful corrosion protection

#### Zinc Phosphate

It all starts with our unique formula of tri-metal zinc phosphate – the same fundamental high-performance chemistry used by leading automakers – which prepares the metal for maximum adhesion.

#### Epoxy E-coat

Next, we apply our best-in-class cathodic epoxy electrocoat (e-coat) optimized for sharp edge and overall corrosion protection.

#### Powder Coat

Finally, we spray on an exacting application of our premium powder coat, formulated exclusively for Accuride to meet the tough demands of the heavy truck environment.



## Advanced coating technology that lasts

While others may outsource their steel wheel coating, we keep that expertise in-house. Coatings and their application are among our core competencies. Only with Accuride can you be certain that you're getting a coating specifically formulated and precisely applied with equipment designed to deliver improved corrosion resistance, as well as UV and chemical durability for the tough steel wheel environment. The result: wheels that look great longer, from the commercial vehicle wheel and coating experts.

## Stop rust where it starts

Steel Armor's powerful combination of improved edge-enhanced epoxy e-coat and exclusive powder coat further enhances both sharp-edge and general corrosion performance. Sharp-edge protection means reduced corrosion on edges (flanges, hand holes, bolt holes and hub hole) of our powder-coated wheels, where rust tends to form first.

### There's no comparison

Which would you prefer? To **contain** corrosion - or risk unchecked deterioration of your steel wheels?



#### Corrosion contained

Steel Armor™ coating technology contains the growth of corrosion by blocking rust at the point of entry when gouges, chips, scrapes and scratches expose the metal



#### Rapid expansion

- Any exposed area allows rust to move in, expand and destroy steel
- Other coatings won't stop rust from getting underneath the paint and expanding across the wheel's metal surface

## Testing performance beyond the industry standard

Standard or strenuous? When it comes to testing our coatings, we prefer the latter. We exposed our wheels featuring Steel Armor™ to a broader range of corrosion performance tests than anyone else in the industry, **eclipsing the traditional testing standards.**

We've gone the extra mile to demonstrate the breakthrough performance and durability of steel wheels with our Steel Armor™ coating process, employing 12 independently performed tests in all. These included industry-standard salt spray and chip resistance tests, plus exacting testing methods commonly used in the automotive industry that are better able to determine product performance in strenuous road and climate conditions, such as UV and Xenon testing and South Florida exposure to cyclical corrosion.

**Truly superior, not merely road-worthy,** Accuride steel wheels with Steel Armor™ set the industry standard for performance. There's just no comparison. See for yourself.

Performance Test	Accuride Steel Armor™	Previous Industry Standard
Salt Spray Performance ASTM B117	 <b>2,500 to 3,000 hours</b>	 1,200 to 1,800 hours
Cyclic Corrosion Performance (ie. GM9540P)  Estimates: 10 cycles = 1 yr Northeast 3 cycles = 1 yr Southwest	 <b>50 to 60 cycles</b>	 20 cycles
UV Durability (South Florida Exposure)	<b>90%+ Gloss Retention</b>	75%+ Gloss Retention





## Go ahead – stretch it out

Steel Armor™ extends the usable service life of your steel wheels for miles and miles. We estimate that wheels protected by Steel Armor™ provide up to 24 additional months of service before refinishing is required. That means up to 200,000 additional miles of service for a truck in the average fleet. That's like giving your original wheels an extra 66 trips from coast-to-coast, Maine to Malibu. *Now, that's value.*

That's an extra  
**200,000 miles**  
before refinishing...

...or **66** coast-to-coast trips

## Breaking down the benefits

- Steel Armor's superior protection allows you to defer your first wheel refinishing by up to two years or more. For some fleets, it's possible to avoid refinishing entirely before trading the vehicle.
- Delaying your first wheel refinishing also reduces the risk of excess paint on wheel mating surfaces that can cause loss of torque on wheels. For more information, reference Accuride literature W3.000 (Accuride Rim/Wheel Safety and Service Manual), W1.009 (Best Practices for Wheel Torque and Clamping Force) and TMC RP 237A.
- Not only does Steel Armor™ make your fleet look better and your drivers less concerned about their CSA scores, it also generates real savings for you.



Reduced Refinishing  
Costs vs. Competitor

X **18 Wheels  
Per Truck** =



**\$630,000 Savings**

Estimated for a 1,000 Unit Fleet



Years 1 2 3 4 5

**Additional 2-Years**



## Premium performance – now standard

Features	Benefits
Proprietary three-phase protection process that is unique to Accuride	Ensures a level of corrosion protection that is unprecedented in the industry
Tri-metal zinc phosphate process securely prepares metal for maximum coating adhesion	Same fundamental high-performance chemistry used by leading automakers; adheres coatings to the metal and retards the spread of invasive corrosion
Enhanced and optimized epoxy e-coat protects against sharp-edge corrosion	Reduces corrosion on edges (flanges, hand holes, bolt holes and hub hole), where rust tends to form first
Premium powder coat technology restricts growth of corrosion	Blocks rust at the point of entry when gouges, chips, scrapes and scratches expose the metal
Special UV-protection formula provides proven maximum UV durability	Provides a superior finish that simply looks great miles and years longer than other industry coatings
Properties delay the onset of rust on edges and across the surface of the wheel	Reduces refinishing cost for fleets by delaying refinishing and repairs for up to two years on average, saving fleets \$630,000, on average for a 1,000 unit fleet
Extended corrosion protection delays wheel refinishing	Reduces risk of excess paint on wheel mating surfaces that can cause loss of torque on wheels

## Ordering Accuride steel wheels with Steel Armor™

Ordering Steel Armor™ is easy. Just order the Accuride steel wheel you need and Steel Armor™ comes standard. No special codes. No new part numbers. Just the steel wheels you already depend on from Accuride, it's that easy.

## White wheels not your thing? We've got you covered.

We know you want them. Wheels in colors that fit your fleet, whether you're hauling gravel, shipping soft drinks or taking children safely to school. Steel Armor is also available in black and gray. See your Accuride sales representative for further details.

## Your only single source

When it comes to keeping your rig looking its best – or fighting back against the elements – you have choices. Whether it's steel or aluminum wheels you want, we've got you covered.

Accuride Wheels is the industry's only manufacturer capable of supplying both steel and aluminum wheels for commercial vehicle fleets from a single source. We're a wheels partner you can depend on for the success of your company. Whether you make the extra investment in aluminum wheels or opt for the extended-life value that Steel Armor™ delivers on our steel wheels, we can help you choose what's right for you. No other company can.

\*Accuride warrants Steel Armor™ to be free of rust damage for sixty (60) months from the date of manufacture indicated on the wheel. Consult your Accuride sales representative for full warranty description.

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For more information: (800) 823-8332 | [accuridewheels.com](http://accuridewheels.com)

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