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## **Oil Canning in Steel Flat Panels**

At Havelock Metal Co., we take pride in providing high-quality steel roofing and siding products. From time to time, customers may notice a visible waviness or rippling in the flat areas of steel panels. This appearance is commonly referred to as **oil canning**.

Oil canning is not considered a defect in the steel panel. Rather, it is a natural visual characteristic that can occur in flat metal products. It does not affect the strength, durability, weather resistance, or overall performance of the panel.

Steel naturally expands and contracts with changes in temperature. This movement is expected and necessary, allowing the material to respond properly to changing weather conditions throughout the year. Oil canning may appear when this natural movement creates slight stresses or variations in the flat surface of the panel, and its appearance may change throughout the day as temperatures and lighting conditions shift.

The appearance of oil canning can be influenced by several factors, including panel width, colour, substrate flatness, installation methods, temperature changes, handling, and the natural properties of the steel itself. Darker colours and certain lighting conditions may also make oil canning more visible.

While proper handling and installation practices can help minimize the appearance of oil canning, it cannot always be completely eliminated. Because it is an inherent characteristic of steel flat panels, oil canning is generally recognized within the metal roofing and siding industry as an aesthetic condition rather than a product deficiency.

For this reason, oil canning is not covered as a manufacturing defect and does not compromise the integrity or expected performance of the steel panel.

We are always happy to answer questions and provide guidance on best practices for handling, storage, and installation to help achieve the best possible finished appearance.

**Havelock Metal Co.**