



METALWORK MATERIAL FINISHES

HELPING YOU
CHOOSE THE RIGHT
FINISH FOR
PERFORMANCE, COST
AND LOOK

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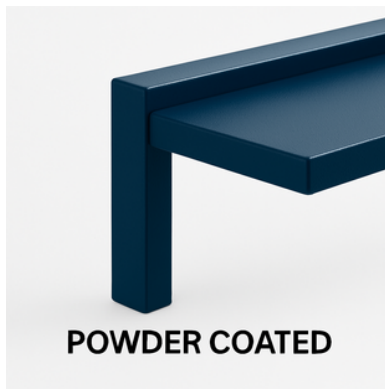
What This Guide Is For

Choosing the right finish isn't just about aesthetics as it also affects cost, lead time, durability, and how your product is perceived. This guide helps you choose the best finish for your project and opens up useful conversations with your team or supplier.

Finish Type	Description	Typical Use Case	Cost Impact	Durability	Aesthetic
Raw Material	Untreated, straight from the mill or factory	Internal parts, cost-driven projects	£	Low	Poor
Primed Only	Primer applied, ready for topcoat	Joinery, prep work, hidden surfaces	££	Medium	Neutral
Powder Coated	Durable baked-on paint finish	Retail fixtures, lockers, public spaces	£££	High	Great
Brushed Steel	Linear textured mechanical finish	High-end retail, security, visible metalwork	££££	High	Excellent
Anodised	Electrochemical treatment for aluminium	Lighting, enclosures, modern detailing	£££	High	Stylish
Vinyl Wrap	Decorative film in wide colour range	Retail branding, custom signage	££	Medium	Custom



RAW MATERIAL



POWDER COATED



ANODISED



PRIMED



BRUSHED STEEL



VINYL WRAP

What To Consider

- **Environment:** Will the part be indoors or outdoors? High-contact or low-touch?
- **Branding:** Does the finish need to match other fixtures or branded environments?
- **Cleaning & Maintenance:** Gloss vs. matte, smooth vs. textured surfaces affect upkeep. E.g. gloss powdercoat is easy to clean but shows up fingerprints & scratches more easily.
- **Lead Time:** Some finishes add 2–7 days to production.
- **Budget:** Could a lower-cost finish deliver the same look with better margin?

Things to Include

If you're preparing a drawing or project brief, include the following:

- Finish type or reference (e.g. RAL code, brushed texture)
- Visual expectations or photos (if available)
- Whether appearance or cost is the priority

If you're unsure or need advice, we're always happy to help.

Contact us via email: info@red-manufacturing.co.uk or telephone: 0161 624 8201