

## Painting Base Station Antennas

Some customers may want to paint their antenna radomes to match a specific color scheme. This Andrew Solutions Tech Note provides some good practices to consider when painting Base Station Antenna radomes, although it is not intended to replace the manufacturer's instructions. Please consult the paint manufacturer for product information, specific equipment, recommended mixing methods, and application instructions. Although we refer to specific products, we do not endorse one manufacturer over another; several products can be used successfully.

### Paint

One readily available, low VOC paint is Sherwin Williams Polane HS Plus Polyurethane Enamel. Sherwin Williams recommends that catalyst V66V55 be used with this paint. Vinyl wash primer may be used, but is not necessary for this paint on nonmetallic surfaces.

Be careful when selecting paints: the paint you choose cannot contain metallic particles, high levels of carbon, or conductive dyes. Paint must be RF transparent and UV resistant. (Note: Sherwin Williams Polane Silver paint contains metallic particles, so it should not be used.)

Helpful Hints to Consider Before Painting Antenna Materials

### Antenna Materials

The radome of Andrew Solutions PCS/DCS antennas is made of acrylic/PVC plastic; the end caps and back panel are made of aluminum.

The radome of Andrew Solutions panel antennas is made of ABS plastic; the back panel is made of aluminum.

### Surface Preparation

Remove old layers of paint or other surface contamination before painting. Water with a mild detergent, industrial-grade isopropyl alcohol, or acetone (highly flammable) are good, low VOC cleaners.

On smooth surfaces, such as PCS antenna radomes, we recommend light sanding with 400 grit or higher sandpaper. After sanding, always clean the surface with isopropyl alcohol or other cleaner to remove grit and dust.

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## General Precautions

- All paints and cleaners must be compatible with the radome material and must be RF transparent.
- All connectors and labels should be masked before painting.
- DC grounding must be maintained during painting.
- All drain holes and other ventilation holes must remain open and clear during painting.

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