Overview

Rust converters are water-based primers which contain two active ingredients: tannic acid and an organic polymer. Tannic acid reacts with iron oxide (rust) and chemically converts it to iron tannate, a dark-colored stable material. Tannins are a group of water- and alcohol-soluble natural products extracted from fruits, trees and grasses. The second active ingredient, 2-Butoxyethanol, is an organic polymer that provides a protective primer layer. The overall chemical reaction converts rust into a stable black protective polymeric coating that serves as an excellent primer for both oil and epoxy based paints.

Lawson has a complete line of rust converters and other rust removers available. See the following pages for a review of these products.

Rust Converter vs Rust Remover

A rust converter does not remove rust. Instead, it mixes chemically with rust to create a black inert substance that can be painted over, concealing the existence of any rust and preventing further corrosion.

Applications

A rust converter can be used on any rusty iron or steel object. It can be used on vehicles, trailers, fences and gates, iron railings and staircases, sheet metal, cast iron, outsides of tanks, lawn equipment, mower decks, farm equipment and tractors to name just a few. It will not work on aluminum, copper, stainless steel or galvanized metal. As a general rule, a rust converter is a good solution to fixing rust on items you would consider painting.

Surface Preparation

Good surface preparation will enable a rust converter to work effectively and leads to a high-quality end result. Remove large rust and scale particles with a stiff bristled brush, hammer or sandpaper. This step provides a stable surface by removing any loose or flaking rust. The point is not to remove all the rust. This defeats the purpose of a rust converter. The rust converter chemically bonds to the rust and seals it in. A rust converter cannot penetrate grease or oil, so clean and degrease the surface first, then let it dry to ensure that other surface contaminants will not interfere with the reaction of the rust converter on the rusted surface. If the surface is subject to salt-water spray for deicing salts, rinse the surface thoroughly with water and allow it to dry prior to applying a rust converter.

Additional Information

Is it necessary to paint over a rust converter?
Although it’s not required, if your surface is exposed to the outdoor elements, we highly recommend applying two coats of a quality oil-based paint over a rust converter. It will definitely extend the protective qualities of the surface from adverse weather including rain, salt mist and direct sunlight.

Can I use a rust converter on my grill, cast iron stove, engine, boiler or other heated surface?
No, a rust converter is not heat resistant and should not be used on any surface that will be heated. (Source: TheRustStore.com)
Rust Converters

**Metalize One-Step Rust Converter**
Converts old rust and helps protect against new rust, all in one easy step. Metalize cures to a tough black finish coat which can either be left alone or painted over.
- Sandblasting is not required – just remove grease, dirt and loose flaking rust
- Temperature range: Up to 250°F (121°C) when cured
- Available in aerosol spray

**LRC Lawson Rust Converter**
Applying Lawson LRC converts a rusty surface to a corrosion-resistant compound. There is no need to sand the surface down to bare metal. Just use a wire brush to remove loose scale and dirt and LRC will convert the rust.
- Surface can be painted with most commercial paint without a primer
- Passes ASTM 500 hour salt spray test
- Touch dry in 15 minutes, full cure in 12 hours

Rust Removers

When converting rust is not an option, a rust remover should be used. Most rust removers are acids and are designed to chemically remove rust from the surface of the metal. All of the rust must be removed to prevent future rust and before coating or sealing the metal.

**Erustor Rust Destroyer**
Completely dissolves and removes rust from steel, concrete, porcelain, fiberglass and tile surfaces. Erustor has a thick gel formula that clings to vertical surfaces for longer contact time.
- Dissolves and removes rust
- Thick gel formula clings to vertical and horizontal surfaces to lengthen contact time
Rust Preventers and Protectors

Engage High-Tech Lubricant
Engage is a multipurpose lubricant formulated with PTFE which provides superior lubrication over an extremely wide temperature range. Engage effectively penetrates through rust and water to coat and lubricate metal surfaces. Engage lubricates better and protects longer than ordinary lubricants.

- Advanced Synthetic Protection – Formulated with PTFE
- Protects – Leaves a protective film that coats metal surfaces
- Penetrates – Breaks up and displaces rust, grit, grime and water
- Wide variety of applications – Shop equipment, marine and boat uses, truck and heavy machines, manufacturing equipment, firearm maintenance and more.

Sprayon® LU™ 103 Rust Breaker® Heavy-Duty Rust Penetrant
LU™ 103 is a fast-acting product that quickly loosens rust while penetrating grease and dirt. A transparent, non-staining oil, its light film displaces moisture and acts as a corrosion preventive. Jet stream sprays up to two' for safe, accurate application. Pleasant vanilla scent. It is a one coat rust and corrosion preventive compound.

- Dielectric strength 47.4kV
- Temp range: –20°F to +550°F
- Flash point: 205°F

Sprayon® LU™ 711 The Protector™ All Purpose Lubricant
LU™ 711 is an ultra-thin film, transparent blend of high-quality petroleum distillates specifically formulated to ensure maximum moisture displacement. Its film resists the collection of abrasive particles on delicate contacts and connectors. This general-maintenance penetrant is unmatched in its versatility and quality. Known as The Protector™, it’s the clear-cut choice of industry to penetrate, lubricate, demoisturize and inhibit corrosion.

- Dielectric strength 47.4kV
- Temp range: –20°F to +550°F
- Flash point: 140°F
- 360° spray valve
- NSF Registered H2

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Metal Protectants

Sprayon® LU™ 767 Indoor Metal Protectant
LU™ 767 is a medium-weight oil formulated for excellent lubrication. This product has ideal corrosion protection, moisture displacement and penetration properties. The non-conductive protective film is non-staining and works up to 15 months against humidity and corrosion damage. Sprayon® Indoor Metal Protectant is ideal for storage of items indoors and items to be shipped. This product leaves an amber film showing total coverage of the object sprayed. This product is safe on metals, rubber, plastic and painted surfaces.

- Works on all surfaces
- VOC compliant
- Removes spots on synthetic carpets
- Streak-proof formula

Sprayon® LU™ 777 Outdoor Metal Protectant
LU™ 777 is a waxy corrosion preventative that offers excellent lubrication and long-term outdoor protection. Its tacky film provides an excellent barrier to salt spray and high humidity.

- Penetrates, displaces moisture, prevents rust
- Protects from salt water
- 24-month durability
- Meets MIL-C-16173D- Grade 2