

Mountcutter Blades *DRAFT 25/03*

Information on Storing and Using Blades in Warm and Humid Environments

Most good cutting blades are made of carbon steel, which gives a very sharp edge, but it is not corrosion resistant.

Historically, manufacturers applied a thin coat of light oil to protect the carbon steel. However, when applied to a mountcutter blade, the oil can leave a stain on the surface of the mountboard. This led to complaints from users. Mountcutter suppliers then arranged for their blades to be oil free. They often wrapped them with corrosion resisting paper and sealed them in clear pouches. This worked pretty well until they were used in warmer, humid, environments.

There, the absence of any oil can make them vulnerable to surface corrosion.

To help you minimise the chances of such corrosion happening, here are some guidelines:

- + When opening a pack of blades, place the opened (but re-sealed) carton in a small sealable plastic box with a silica gel sachet inside. You can often save the silica gel sachets from other product packaging.
- + Only open one cellophane pack at a time. You probably do this anyway.
- + Consider storing full boxes again in a sealable tub with silica gel.

If some signs of corrosion are seen on a blade it should not affect the quality of the cut providing the corrosion is not on the tip being used.