

# Resource page - Metals



## Aluminium

Aluminium is a lightweight metal that is used extensively in the sign industry. Sheets - Signboxes - Extrusions - Directory signs etc. Once coated aluminium has excellent weathering properties. Beautiful anodised finishes are available or it can be powder coated or spray painted for a lasting effect.

## Dibond

This product is a laminated aluminium sheet that combines the weathering capabilities of the metal with the lightness of plastic and produces a sheet of very high rigidity. This material can be rolled and bent to produce amazing shapes. Vinyl lettering and screen printing produces very pleasing results.

## Brass

Brass is an alloy made up of copper and zinc. It is used extensively in the sign industry for plaques and nameplates. Its bright golden colour

is instantly recognisable, often engraved and infilled with different colours to beautiful effect. It tarnishes rapidly and requires relatively high maintenance, however regular polishing gives an aged quality. A good quality lacquer can be applied, but this is not a lasting deterrent.

## Bronze

Bronze is an alloy made up of copper and tin, it can be cast for decorative results. It is red/brown/gold in colour. It will tarnish, not as rapidly as brass, but the patina effect is recognisable from bronze statues.

## Gold

Ultra thin gold (Gold Leaf) was used in sign production extensively because of its amazing appearance and its ability to weather without tarnishing. It is used less these days because of its relatively high cost.

## Silver

Silver leaf can be used in sign production with similar qualities to gold.

## Steel Stainless, Steel and Iron

Stainless steel is often used in the fabrication of individual letters; it has amazing resistance to weathering. It can be powder coated in many colours for lasting results. Steel is often used for structural purposes, where strength is an important factor. Steel angle, pole and box section can be used say for posts and cross members for a sign structure. Steel mesh can be used in areas where wind is a factor, letters or small sign could be mounted on the mesh and can reduce the effect the wind would have on the structure.

Wrought Iron is used in the sign industry for projecting signs or where intricate metal detail may be required.