



CERAKOTE

More than colour. Built for the Coast.

CAP COAST GUNSMITHING · YEPPPOON, QLD

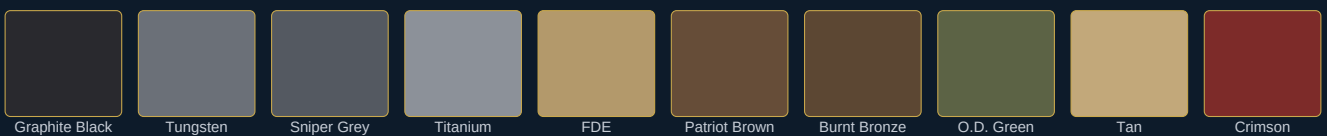
A workshop guide to coating your firearm

Why this guide exists

Every set of swatches we put on the wall draws the same questions. What is this stuff. Does it really stop rust. Can you do that colour. Is it just paint. How much, and how long. This guide answers them once, in plain English, so you can decide with your eyes open.

Cerakote is one of the most common jobs on the bench, and one of the most misunderstood. It is not a rattle-can respray, and it is not a lounge-room weekend project. Done properly it is a certified ceramic coating that protects a firearm for years and looks the part.

So here is the honest version: what Cerakote actually is, why it matters on the Capricorn Coast, what makes a job last, what we can coat, what to bring, and how to look after it. Then, if it is for you, bring the rifle in.



Coated properly. Protected for the long haul.

What Cerakote actually is

Cerakote is a ceramic-polymer coating. Very fine ceramic particles carried in a polymer, sprayed thin and then cured so it bonds to the metal, timber or polymer underneath. The result is a hard, thin, even layer that adds real corrosion and wear protection and comes in almost any colour or pattern.

It is not paint. Paint sits on top and chips. A properly applied and cured ceramic coating bonds and wears, thin enough that it does not upset tolerances when the job is done right.

How it compares

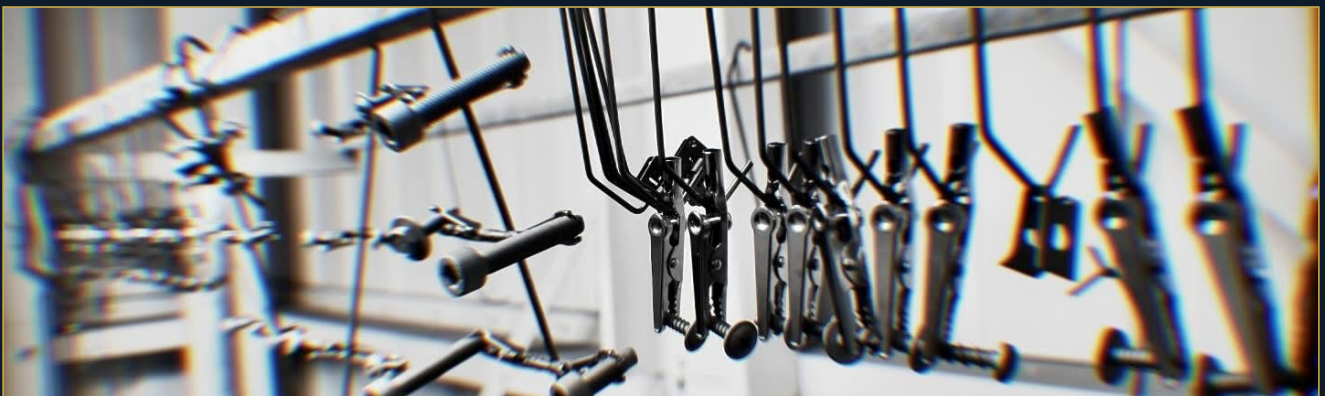
Bluing looks classic but is a thin oxide that rusts the moment oil and attention lapse, a real problem in coastal air.

Stainless resists corrosion but is limited in finish and colour, and still marks and reflects.

A rattle-can respray is cheap and looks it: it chips fast and gums up tolerances.

Cerakote, applied by a certified applicator, protects and personalises in one hard-wearing finish, and carries a limited lifetime warranty on the coating.

Real work, coated and hung to cure in the Yeppoon booth.



Why it matters on the Cap Coast

The Capricorn Coast is hard on steel. Salt in the air, humidity that does not quit, rifles zipped into foam cases still damp from a morning hunt, safes that sweat through a wet season. Bluing and bare steel freckle with rust while you are not looking.

Cerakote is built for exactly this. A cured ceramic coating shrugs off the salt-air corrosion that eats a blued finish, so the rifle that lives in your safe or rides in your ute comes out looking the way you left it.

If you shoot or store anywhere near the coast, a proper coating is one of the best things you can do for the metal. It is the same reason we bang on about drying gear and not leaving rifles in foam: the coast is patient, and it wins if you let it.

The before-and-after that makes the case: a coastal rifle that used to freckle with rust every wet season, back a year after a coat looking factory fresh.

From the bench

The worst rust we see is not from hard use. It is from a wet rifle put away in a case or safe and forgotten. Coating buys you a big margin for the days you are human about it.

What makes a job last

The colour is the easy part. What separates a finish that lasts from one that peels in a season is everything you do not see: the preparation and the hands.

In principle, a lasting job means the metal is stripped and cleaned properly, given the right surface for the coating to grip, coated evenly at the right thickness, and cured so it truly hardens, then reassembled by someone who works on firearms every day. Rush or skip any of it and a finish can peel, run, or seize a tight tolerance.

The finish is only ever as good as the prep and the hands behind it. The next page shows roughly how a coat goes on. The judgement inside each step is the part that takes years.

WHAT A LASTING JOB IS MADE OF (PRINCIPLE, NOT A RECIPE)

THE FINISH

cured hard, even, thin

THE COATING

ceramic-polymer, sprayed even

THE PREP

stripped, cleaned, right surface

THE METAL

your bare firearm

How a coat actually goes on

None of this is a secret. The order even lives on the booth wall in pink marker, beside the bluing lists. What takes years is the judgement and the numbers inside each step, not the order of them.

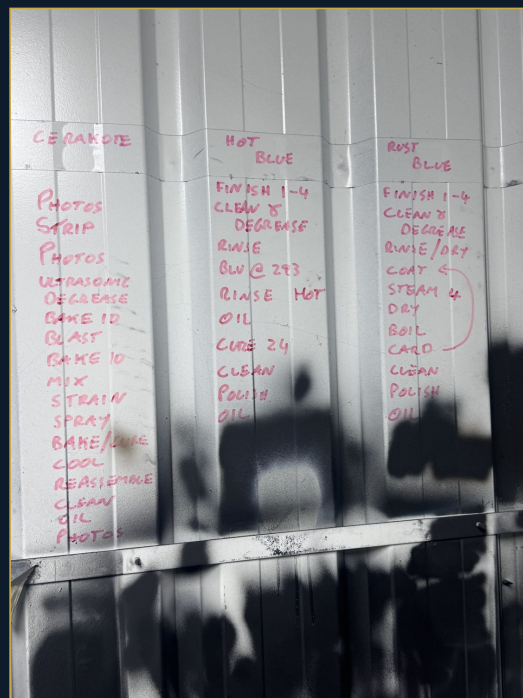
Cleaning goes deeper than a wipe. Parts run through an ultrasonic bath that shakes oil and grit out of every thread and crevice the eye never sees, then a bake to leach oil up out of the pores of the metal itself. Skip that and a rifle that has soaked in oil for years bleeds through a perfect-looking finish months later, the coastal failure we see most.

Then a media blast keys the surface: a fine, even tooth for the coating to lock into. Too little and it will not grip; too much, or the wrong media, and you harm the part. Only then does it get a measured coat, gloves the whole way because the oil off bare skin alone can stop adhesion, and a proper cure.

From the bench

The order is on the wall for anyone to read. The temperatures, times, ratios and technique behind each step are what we do not publish, and getting them right every time is what a certified bench is for.

The booth wall in Yeppoon: Cerakote at left, hot and rust bluing beside it. The order is no secret; the numbers in the hands are.



What we can coat

Almost anything metal, and plenty that is not. Common work:

Full rifles and shotguns, single colour or multi-colour.

Patterns and camo, freehand or stencilled, clean or distressed.

Stocks and furniture, small parts, scopes, rings, bases, muzzle devices and magazines.

Micro Slick, a ceramic dry-film coating for bolts and internals that cuts friction and galling.

The standard on every job

Every job includes full disassembly, preparation, coating, reassembly and a function check, and carries a limited lifetime warranty on the finish. We tell you about any worn parts or repairs we find before final assembly, not after.

What is not a weekend project

Actions and anything running tight tolerances, and of course any work on a licensed firearm. That is certified-bench and licence territory, not a garage spray gun. The rattle-can and half-cured jobs that come in for a redo cost more to strip and do again than they would have to do once, properly.

Solid colours, multi-colour and distressed patterns, all from the bench.



What to bring, and what to expect

Bring the firearm unloaded, with no ammunition (keep ammo separate), and your licence. We handle the rest. Disassembly, prep, coating and reassembly are all part of the job.

Colour is chosen from the swatch wall: one colour, or a pattern. We will talk through what suits the rifle and how you use it, and flag anything worn we find along the way.

Turnaround depends on the season and the queue, so ask when you book.

A rough guide to cost

Jobs range from small parts, through a basic single-colour rifle, up to full works packages that cover all the metalwork plus Micro Slick internals. Multi-colour and patterns are quoted on request. Current pricing lives on the website, and we confirm your exact job before we start, including any repairs we find along the way.

From the bench

The price includes the parts most people forget: stripping it down, prepping it properly, curing it, reassembling it, and checking it works. That is the job, not an extra.

One colour or a pattern, chosen from the swatch wall.



Looking after your coating

Cerakote is low-maintenance, not no-maintenance. A cured finish is tough, but treat it like the quality finish it is.

A light oil on a cloth over the exterior now and then is plenty, especially after a wet or coastal trip.

For internals coated in Micro Slick, use the lubrication the firearm and coating call for. A dry-film coating can cut the amount you need in some conditions, but it does not make every action safe to run dry, so follow the maker's guidance rather than a blanket rule.

Expect the action to feel a touch tight until it settles, and expect light burnishing on the high-contact spots over time. That is normal wear. Where the coating has worn through to bare metal, though, that spot no longer has the coating's corrosion barrier, so keep an eye on it and bring it in if you see abnormal wear, binding or corrosion.

On reassembly, mask around screws so a slipped driver does not mark the finish, and put a drop of oil in the torx heads of scope-ring screws after torquing. We started doing that after hunters found corrosion staining inside ring-screw heads at the end of a wet season.

Matte finishes should not be polished or burnished. That changes the sheen unevenly.

Where to go from here

If your rifle lives near the coast, rides in a ute, or you just want it to look the way you picture it, a proper coating is worth it. Done once, done right.

Book a coating, or come and put your hands on the swatch wall:

Colours, gallery, pricing and booking: capcoastgunsmithing.com.au/cerakote

Or call into the workshop in Yeppoon.

Certified Cerakote applicator. The colour is yours; the process stays in the booth.



CAP COAST GUNSMITHING

capcoastgunsmithing.com.au/cerakote

More than colour. Built for the Coast.

This guide is general product information about firearm coating services. Firearms must be presented unloaded with ammunition kept separate, and all work is carried out under the relevant licences and your state's firearms laws. Colours shown are indicative only; final finishes are chosen from physical swatches.