



Pettit Technical Bulletin

Antifouling Paint Types

The type of anti-fouling paint you choose will depend greatly on many conditions. The main objectives are to provide the best performing paint available for the fouling needs in the waters you boat in while meeting the needs of the type of boating you do. There are three types of fouling: shell fish, weed, and slime or algae. Different conditions such as water temperature, salinity, currents, silt, etc. can affect marine fouling growth. Growth affects safety, speed, fuel efficiency, and the boat owner's investment.

Traditionally, there are two types of antifouling paints:

Traditional Leaching Coppers	Ablative Polymers
Traditional Leaching Copper paints can be either hard or soft	Ablative polymers paints wear away with use exposing new toxicant
The active ingredient leaches out while the paint film stays mostly intact	In ablative paints, both the toxicant and the paint film disappear
Leaching Coppers lose performance as time goes by	Ablative Polymers maintain a more steady performance throughout their useful life
Leaching Coppers must be repainted after dry storage.	Ablative Polymers can be used multi-season
Traditional Leaching Paints do not require movement and work equally well at the dock and underway	Ablative Polymers require movement of the boat in order to work - not recommended for seldom used vessels
Hard Traditional Leaching Copper paints resist chafing making them ideal for trailer use	Ablative paints tend to be softer and are not well suited for use on boats that are regularly trailered or beached



Recently, we have developed a new type of "Hybrid" antifouling paint. **Vivid** antifouling paint is in a category of its own offering a hard paint that does not build up. **Vivid** works by leaching out the toxicants just as a Traditional Leaching Copper does, however, once the toxicant is gone, the paint film will break down in water and "powder off" exposing a new layer of toxicant. **Vivid** resists build-up while it can be burnished, trailered, rack-stored, launched and re-launched without loss of antifouling protection. **Vivid** antifouling paint truly offers the best of both worlds.

Vivid uses a different slime resistant algaecide, zinc pyrithione, to prevent soft growth and cuprous thiocyanate to prevent hard shellfish growth. These algaecides are white in color which enables us to offer a dual-biocide product with true colors that remain true throughout the life of the paint.

Vivid's attributes go far beyond its beautiful vibrant colors, for it also provides excellent multi-season, dual biocide antifouling protection under all conditions. Vivid's new hybrid technology incorporates all the benefits of both ablative and hard paints in one superior product. Its hard, smooth surface withstands trailering and is easily burnished to a high performance super slick racing finish. When used over the recommended priming system Vivid can safely be used on aluminum hulls and outdrives. The perfect antifouling choice for any boat.