Pettit Technical Bulletin

Bottom Painting Bare Fiberglass

There are several methods available to apply antifouling paint to bare fiberglass hulls, bellow are our most popular systems. One of the most important parts to each system is to be sure the bottom is completely cleaned and de-waxed prior to sanding or applying any products. All bare fiberglass, regardless of age, should be thoroughly cleaned with 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep. When using 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep, pour out some of the 92 Bio-Blue into a roller pan, then using a short nap roller (3/16 inch maximum) apply the 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep to an area approximately 5 feet by 5 feet. Scrub the surface by hand or machine in a circular motion using a fine to medium Scotch-Brite™ pad. Wipe the area with a wet sponge until all residue is completely removed from the surface. Rinse sponge and change rinse water often. Using a squeegee can help speed up the process of removing the residue prior to using the sponge. Where feasible, hose off or power-wash the surface with fresh water and let dry.

Application Systems:

I. Sanding Method

II. High Build Epoxy Primer Method

III. Sandless Method

IV. Easy 2-Step Sandless Method

I. Sanding Method:

Thoroughly clean and de-wax the hull using 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep as described above. Sand thoroughly with 80-grit sandpaper to a dull, frosty finish, and rewash the sanded surface with 120 Brushing Thinner to remove sanding residue. Careful observation of the above instructions will help ensure long-term adhesion of this and subsequent years' antifouling paint. Apply at least two coats of solvent or waterbased antifouling paint.

II. High Build Epoxy Primer Method:

This method is highly recommended where blister protection is a concern or on boats that have recently been stripped by a blasting method. Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer is a heavy duty, two-component epoxy coating for use where maximum resistance to fresh or salt water is required.

Thoroughly clean and de-wax the hull as described above with 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep. Sand the surface thoroughly with 80-grit sandpaper and rewash with 120 Brushing Thinner to remove sanding residue. Apply at least two coats of Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer following the application and recoat instructions. Total dry film thickness is more important than the actual number of coats applied. Finish with two coats of Pettit antifouling paint. For detailed application instructions see Pettit Protect User Manual.

III. Sandless Method:

To eliminate the sanding operation, thoroughly clean and de-wax the hull as described above with 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep. Apply one coat of either Pettit H_2Prime Waterbased Epoxy Primer or Protect High Build Epoxy Primer followed by two coats of any Pettit antifouling paint.

IV. Easy 2-Step Sandless Method

Thoroughly clean and prep the hull using 92 Bio-Blue and a Scotch-Brite™ pad as described above. Wipe surface to remove any excess moisture and apply either Neptune^5 or one of the Hydrocoat antifouling paints.