



Coppercoat Anti-Fouling Bottom Paint

CoppercoatUSA.com

Maintenance Guidelines (01.01.2023)

Coppercoat Anti-Fouling Bottom Paint is **not maintenance free**; if your boat hull accumulates slime it needs to be cleaned. Slime is usually the first thing that attaches, but then grass/moss and hard growth will attach, attempting to get through the soft growth to your hull. The Coppercoat will keep the hard growth from securely attaching to the hull, but it can still look bad and slow your progress underway. If the Coppercoat was not adequately sanded in some areas the hard growth can be more challenging to remove. If you clean the hull regularly you will prevent the process from starting.

How often does it require cleaning?

Every area is different based on the temperature and salinity of the water, the flow of water past the boat, the nutrients in the area and how much you use your boat. Ask other boaters in your area how often they clean their boats and check yours every few days to see how quickly slime, grass and hard growth accumulates. For example, many boat owners in the NE and NW US, Canada and the UK only completely clean their Coppercoat a couple of times a year because the water is cold, and growth is slow and they don't have the nutrients that are in warm waters. In the SE and Caribbean grass will grow in less than 2 weeks in the summer. Leave your boat uncleaned for a couple of months in those areas and you'll have a much bigger job to clean up.

What should be used to clean the hull in the water?

A window washing squeegee will clean the slime off easily. A plastic putty spreader or plastic putty knife is great for removing the slime and grass that grows along the water line very quickly in some areas. A piece of indoor-outdoor carpet works great. TIP: Cut a rectangle of carpet about 20" long and 8" wide; fold the carpet in half so it's about 10" x 8" and sew the sides to make a mitt for your hand to go inside of.

Can the hull be cleaned using a pressure washer?

Yes, a 4000 psi pressure washer can be used to remove slime and any other accumulation, holding the tip about 4" from the Coppercoat at an angle. Coppercoat is a very hard epoxy.

What if I didn't clean the hull and there is a significant accumulation of grass and hard growth?

Start cleaning it now, using a firm plastic putty knife, a piece of indoor/outdoor carpet and a new scotch pad style green scrub pad to clean off the accumulation. Or, have the boat pulled out in a boatyard and the bottom pressure washed, and scraped with a plastic putty knife if needed.

If there are areas that were not sanded enough to start with, the hard growth may be more firmly attached, but the barnacle heads etc. should pressure wash off, scraping with the plastic putty knife as needed. Sand those areas with 220 grit sandpaper or scuff them with a new scotch pad to expose copper and prevent attachment in the future. Then return to a regular maintenance routine, cleaning with the carpet mitt.

Why can't I clean the bottom with a scotch pad all the time? Why use a plastic putty knife instead of a metal one?

Once the copper is exposed and all you are getting is slime, cleaning with a scotch pad all the time removes an excess of Coppercoat, shortening the life span. And a metal knife will often gouge and scratch the Coppercoat and the hull. Clean with the gentlest method that works.

Can Coppercoat be touched up in places instead of recoating the entire hull?

Yes, review the Coppercoat **Do's and Don'ts/Application Instructions** that are on **CoppercoatUSA.com**. After 10-12 years most boats waterlines are getting thin and need more Coppercoat, known as a "touch-up". Determine the square footage that needs to be coated, purchase enough Coppercoat and follow the Application Instructions for partial mixing small batches, including sanding the touched-up areas. This applies to repairs as well.

What needs to be done to a Coppercoat boat has been out of the water for a season, or 2 or 3, before launching?

Wash the hull with a pressure washer if possible, or a water hose. It can be helpful to scrub it with a scotch pad as you wash it to remove accumulated dirt, etc.