



# Pettit Technical Bulletin

## Vivid Performance Antifouling

Until recently, boaters looking for a smooth racing finish had to choose between hard and ablative bottom paints. Hard paints offer the ability wet-sand or burnish the finish smooth while many ablative paints can self-polish over time. Pettit's research lab has developed a new type of "Hybrid" antifouling paint. Vivid antifouling paint is in a category of its own combining the best attributes of both hard and ablative technologies. Vivid works by leaching out the toxicants just as a traditional hard paint does, however, once the toxicant is gone, the paint film will break down in water and "powder off" exposing a new layer of toxicant. This self-polishing surface resists build-up while it can be burnished to a porcelain-like racing finish. Vivid antifouling paint truly offers the best of both worlds.

While hard racing finishes of the past tend to have little or no antifouling capabilities, Vivid provides highly effective, dual-biocide, multi-season protection against aggressive fouling and slime. Pettit's new-age white copper technology is just one of the secrets to Vivid's incredible success. Clean white in color, this copper biocide is lightweight and extremely effective at combating even the toughest fouling. So effective, it requires 50% less biocide content than the heavy, reddish brown cuprous oxide used in conventional antifoulants. Mixed with bright color pigments, the clean white base produces the brightest antifouling colors plus the whitest white and the blackest black. Vivid's dual biocides are an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional cuprous oxide paints, and Vivid meets all relevant air pollution regulations. Vivid's hard surface dramatically reduces the amount of biocides released from the paint film during cleaning and power washing.

### Tips for spray application of Vivid

#### Airless Sprayer

Airless sprayer must be at least 3/4 horsepower  
Use a .017 to .019 spray tip  
Thin product 5% using part number 121/T-8 Spraying Thinner  
Use a .017 to .019 spray tip

#### Conventional Air Gun

Must use a pressure pot with 15 to 20 psi on pot  
Thin product 15% using part number 121/T-8 Spraying Thinner  
Use a .070 spray tip

#### Directions

Sand to etch the surface with 80 grit paper  
Apply two THIN coats allowing product to cure between coats, apply a third coat if burnishing is planned.  
Coats MUST be sprayed on thin (5 mil max)  
Depending on temperature, an overnight dry period may be necessary between coats.  
You will likely see a bleed in the first coat, this is normal and expected especially in lighter Vivid colors and white.  
The graphite in the previous surface will cause leaching that will appear streaky. This will affect the appearance of the first coat only and should not show on subsequent coats.

### Tips for Rolling and Tipping Method of Application

Thin Vivid 10% with #120 thinner  
Apply using thin coats using a 1/8" to 3/16" smooth nap roller  
Cover only enough area that can be tipped before the paint film dries  
Tip the surface using a quality natural bristle paint brush in a fore and aft direction.

### Burnishing Vivid for a Smooth Racing Finish

Burnishing Vivid can be achieved by using a buffer at 1750 rpm's, a wool pad, and Meguiar's Diamond Cut Compound® (M85). The low-dusting, low-splatter compound creates an effect similar to applying a finishing glaze. Burnishing Vivid with the Meguiar's Diamond Cut will give you a porcelain-like racing finish without compromising antifouling performance. When burnishing, it is wise to apply a third coat of Vivid.