



Pettit Technical Bulletin

Aluminum Hulls

There are several systems available for applying antifouling to aluminum hulls. Our best systems utilize primers to provide maximum protection for the hull from exposure to corrosion and electrolysis. By separating the hull from coming in contact with both salt water and the antifouling paint film, these systems eliminate the worries associated with protecting underwater aluminum.

For aluminum hulls we recommend using the systems below:

For bare hulls:

1. Degrease aluminum hull by thoroughly wiping with #97 Epoxy Thinner
2. Sandblast, or sand the surface with 60-grit sandpaper to achieve a good adhesion profile
3. *Apply one coat of #4700/4701 or #4100/4101 Pettit-Protect High Build Epoxy Primer thinned 10% with #97 Epoxy Thinner. (Alternatively - two coats of #4400/4401 Aluma-Protect Aluminum Epoxy Primer may be applied instead of the single thinned Pettit-Protect High Build Epoxy Primer when maximum corrosion resistance is required.)
4. Apply two additional un-thinned coats of #4700/4701 or #4100/4101 Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer
5. Apply two thin coats of Hydrocoat Eco, Ultima Eco, Pontoon Pro, or Vivid Antifouling

For previously primed hulls:

#4700/4701 or #4100/4101 Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer may be applied over existing two-part epoxy finishes, provided they are in sound condition.

1. Sandblast, or heavily sand the surface with 60-grit sandpaper to achieve a good adhesion profile
2. Wipe clean with #120 Brushing Thinner
3. Apply two coats of #4700/4701 or #4100/4101 Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer
4. Apply two thin coats of Hydrocoat Eco, Ultima Eco, Pontoon Pro, or Vivid Antifouling

Coating performance is only as good as the surface to which it's applied. All existing two-part epoxy finishes in poor condition, as well as all one-part primers and bottom paints should be removed completely before applying Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer

For previously painted hulls:

1. If the previous coating is compatible (Refer to Pettit Paint's compatibility chart) and is in good condition, thoroughly sand with 80-grit paper
2. Solvent clean with #120 Brushing Thinner to remove residue
3. Apply one thin coat of Hydrocoat Eco, Ultima Eco, Pontoon Pro, or Vivid Antifouling

If the previous coating is soft or in poor condition, remove to the bare surface by sanding or using a paint & varnish remover. Proceed with the bare system as described above.

See Pettit Protect User Manual for complete detailed instructions for applying Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer.

As with all paint systems, the quality of the products adhesion depends on the surface it is applied to. Make sure all surfaces are clean and properly prepped as per the directions on the product's label. All previous surfaces should be in good condition in order to achieve proper adhesion.

Pettit Marine Paint has a solution for all underwater metals including steel, stainless or galvanized steel, bronze, cast iron, lead, and aluminum. Consult our Product Data Sheets for more information. Detailed product information can be found on our website at pettitpaint.com or by calling (800) 221-4466.