



Pettit Technical Bulletin

Bottom Painting Bare Fiberglass

There are several methods available to apply antifouling paint to bare fiberglass hulls, below 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.

Application Systems:

- 1. High Build Epoxy Primer Method (Single Coat)**
- 2. High Build Epoxy Primer Methods - (Best Protection and Long Term Adhesion)**
- 3. Sandless Method**
- 4. Sanding Method**

1. High Build Epoxy Primer Method (Single Coat):

Thoroughly clean and de-wax the hull with 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep. Apply one coat of Pettit Protect High Build Epoxy Primer following the application and recoat instructions. Finish with two coats of Pettit antifouling paint. (The first coat of antifouling paint should be a hard modified epoxy for proper adhesion and abrasion resistance). For detailed application instructions see Pettit Protect User Manual.

2. High Build Epoxy Primer Method (Barrier Coat):

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 with 92 Bio-Blue Hull Surface Prep. Sand thoroughly with 80-grit sandpaper to a dull, frosty finish, and rewash the sanded surface with 120 Brushing Thinner to remove sanding residue. Apply at least 2 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. (The first coat of antifouling paint should be a hard modified epoxy for proper adhesion and abrasion resistance). For detailed application instructions see Pettit Protect User Manual.

3. 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, apply 1 coat of 6998W Skip Sand Primer, then apply either Neptune HRT or Hydrocoat antifouling paints following overcoat directions. 2 coats are required for initial application of Neptune HRT or Hydrocoat antifouling paints.

4. 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. Ensure proper 2 - 3 mil anchor profile has been achieved. Careful observation of the above instructions will help ensure long-term adhesion of this and subsequent years' antifouling paint. The first coat of antifouling paint should be a hard modified epoxy for proper adhesion and abrasion resistance. Apply at least two coats of antifouling paint.