

Application of Coppercoat

1. The underwater part of the hull must first be stripped of all old antifouling back to the gel coat or original surface. (see special notes for boats of ferrocement, steel, aluminium or wood.) The stripping can be done by sanding, chemicals, or sand blasting preferably with water.
2. Some small areas may need to be hand sanded to ensure that ALL of the antifouling and any previous primers are completely removed.
3. After this the hull must be washed with water or brushed well to remove all dust and other particles. Do not wash the hull with any solvents or any other chemicals.
4. When dry the Coppercoat can be applied. This can be applied by roller with short haired good quality rollers or by spray (see notes for spraying). Coppercoat should not be applied by brush or foam rollers.
5. To mix the Coppercoat first well mix the base resin with the hardener before slowly adding the copper powder. Add this slowly to ensure a good mixture. The use of an electric mixer helps to make sure that the copper is well mixed in the epoxy liquid and an homogenous mixture is obtained.
6. Do not put too much Coppercoat in the trays at any one time and stir the pot before taking more to ensure that the copper is well mixed in the resin.
8. The pot life of Coppercoat is 30-40 minutes in temperatures above 20degrees centigrade. Do not attempt to apply Coppercoat when it has begun to harden and forms a gel.
7. It is important that all of the Coppercoat that has been calculated for your boat, normally 4 coats, is applied wet on wet in the same day except for a small quantity saved for the support patches. Normally in temperatures of 20degrees plus it is possible to apply the coats continuously. On larger boats if the 4 coats cannot be applied in one day then it is acceptable to do half of the boat one day and the other half the next.
Only mix 1 litre of Coppercoat at once.

9. The first coat will often seem too thin but do not be tempted to apply too thick a coat as this will result in runs and sags. It is better to apply thinner coats.

10. Once the Coppercoat is applied it must be protected from water and rain for at least 3 days.

11. After 3 days the support points can be moved and the same process applied to these areas, waiting a further 3 days before launch.

12. Before launch it is advisable to lightly sand the newly applied Coppercoat with 100 or 120 paper by hand to gently release the copper and give a good start to the protection.

Notes for boats not constructed of Fibre Glass:

If your boat is constructed of Ferrocement, Steel, Wood or Aluminium, or the iron keel is exposed, it is important that at least 2 coats of suitable solvent free epoxy primer are applied before the Coppercoat. The Coppercoat must be applied before the epoxy primer has cured, normally within 24 hours, or the surface must be completely sanded.

Notes on epoxy primer before Coppercoat:

If it is required to add extra protection to the hull before the application of Coppercoat it is important that this epoxy primer is SOLVENT FREE and that the Coppercoat is applied before the epoxy primer has cured, normally within 24 hours, or the surface must be completely sanded.