## Painting Aluminium and Light alloys

Correct surface preparation of aluminium and light alloy substrates is essential prior to the application of any protective coating system. Aluminium is particularly susceptible to galvanic corrosion, and failure to prepare the surface correctly or to use compatible coatings can lead to premature coating failure and substrate damage.

The selection of an appropriate coating system is critical—not only for hull structures, but also for many common onboard components manufactured from aluminium or light alloys. **Coatings containing cuprous oxide or metallic flakes must not be used** on aluminium substrates, as they can accelerate galvanic corrosion.

### Surface Preparation – Bare Aluminium & Light Alloys

Untreated aluminium rapidly forms an oxide layer that must be removed prior to coating to ensure proper adhesion.

1. Lightly abrasive blast or mechanically sand the surface to remove surface oxides and provide a suitable key for the coating system.
2. Thoroughly degrease the substrate using a neutral solvent to remove oils, grease, and surface contaminants.
3. Ensure all residues are fully removed and the surface is clean, dry, and uniform prior to coating application.

Once correctly prepared, the substrate is suitable for the application of Skipper's Line recommended coating systems.

### Previously Coated Surfaces – Topsides & Below the Waterline

Where existing coatings are present and in sound condition—free from cracking, flaking, blistering, or loss of adhesion—the surface may be prepared as follows:

1. Thoroughly clean and degrease the surface to remove contaminants.
2. Abrade the existing coating using medium-fine abrasive paper (P180–P240) to provide a mechanical key.
3. Remove all sanding dust and residues by brushing and vacuuming.

Following correct preparation, the surface will be suitable for the application of the selected coating system or antifouling.

**Please note:** some Skipper's Line antifouling products are not suitable for use on aluminium substrates—always confirm product compatibility prior to application.

## Indicative Coating Systems

**1.** Bottom Coating System – Below Waterline

| No of Coats | Product Name | Thinner | | Coverage (m2/Lt) | Recoating (at 20˚C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-3 | **Epofond AM/9** Epoxy Primer | 10-15% Brush 765 | 15-25% Spray 765 | 8-9 | 12-24 hours |
| 1-2 | **Solver Primer**/intermediate coat | 10-25% Brush 400 | 15-30% Spray 400 | 4-6 | Min 6 hours |
| 2 | **PropShark** Antifouling | Ready to use | 10% 203 | 11-13 | Within 12 hours |

**2.** Topside Coating System – Above Waterline

| No of Coats | Product Name | Thinner | | Coverage (m2/Lt) | Recoating (at 20˚C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-3 | **Epofond AM/9** Epoxy Primer | 10-15% Brush 765 | 15-25% Spray 765 | 8-9 | 12-24 hours |
| 2 | **Solver Primer**/intermediate coat | 10-25% Brush 400 | 15-30% Spray 400 | 4-6 | Min 6 hours |
| 2 | **Topkapi** or **Topkapi Satin** Yacht Paint | 10-20% Brush 107/109 | 10-25% Spray 900 | 11-13 | 18-24 hours |

| **3.** Topside Coating System – Above Waterline | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No of Coats** | **Product Name** | **Thinner** | | **Coverage (m2/Lt)** | **Recoating (at 20˚C)** |
| 2 | **Epofond AM/9** Epoxy Primer | 10-15% Brush 765 | 15-25% Spray 765 | 8-9 | 12-24 hours |
| 2-3 | **Polifond** Undercoat | 15-30% Brush 205 | 25-35% Spray 203 | 14-15 | 12-24 hours |
| 2 | **Acriglass Finish** Yacht Paint<br>or<br>**Space Top Pro Finish** Yacht Paint<br>or<br>**Whitext Bucciato** Textured Finish | 15-25% Brush 205<br><br>20-30% Brush 205/201<br><br>5-10% Brush 205 | 20-35% Spray 203<br><br>20-35% Spray 205/201<br><br>5-10% Spray 203 | 10<br><br>13-14<br><br>5-6 | 24 hours<br><br>18-24 hours<br><br>24 hours |

## Indicative System for Propellers, Stern drives & Stern Gear

| **1** Coating System | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No of Coats** | **Product Name** | **Thinner** | | **Coverage (m2/Lt)** | **Recoating (at 20˚C)** |
| 2-3 | **SK1 Primer** | 10-20% Brush 765 | 30-40% Spray 765 | 7-8 | 4-6 hours |
| 2 | **PropShark** Antifouling | Ready to use | 10% 203 | 11-13 | Within 12 hours |

## Indicative Clear Coating system for Bronze Fittings

| **1** Clear Coating System – Above Waterline | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No of Coats** | **Product Name** | **Thinner** | **Coverage (m2/Lt)** | **Recoating (at 20˚C)** |
| 2-3 | Ottovernix Clear Coating<br>or<br>PropShark | 10-20% Nitro Thinner<br><br>Ready to use | 10-12<br><br>11-13 | 2-4 hours<br><br>Within 12 hours |
| Leave as final coating finish or follow up with normal coating system for painted finish. | | | | |

***Note:*** *The product information is a general overview to help when deciding which product to use. Please see the product's technical data sheet for specific information.*