Painting GRP/FRP

Correct surface preparation of GRP / FRP substrates is essential to ensure optimum adhesion, long-term performance, and durability of the coating system. Particular attention must be given to the removal of surface contaminants and the condition of the laminate or gelcoat prior to coating.

Surface Preparation – Bare GRP / FRP

1. Thoroughly clean and degrease the substrate using a suitable surface cleaner and degreaser to remove mould-release agents, waxes, silicones, or other contaminants that may adversely affect coating adhesion.
2. Lightly abrade the surface using medium-fine abrasive paper (P180–P220) to create a uniform key for the subsequent coating system.
3. Remove all sanding dust and residues by brushing and vacuuming thoroughly.
4. Ensure that newly laminated GRP / FRP has been allowed sufficient time for the resin system to fully cure prior to coating application.
5. Inspect the gelcoat surface carefully. Any defects such as pinholes, blisters, cracks, or surface imperfections must be properly repaired before applying the coating system.

Once correctly prepared, the substrate is suitable for the application of **Skipper's Line** recommended primers, undercoats, and topcoats.

Previously Painted Surfaces – Topsides

Coating in Good Condition - Where the existing coating is sound, with good adhesion and no blistering, cracking, or flaking:

1. Thoroughly clean and degrease the surface to remove contamination. Where required, an anti-silicone cleaner such as **Space SP – Anti-Silicone Cleaner** may be used.
2. Abrade the surface using medium-fine abrasive paper (P180–P240) to provide a mechanical key.
3. Remove all sanding dust and residues thoroughly.
4. Apply the appropriate primer, undercoat, or topcoat in accordance with the relevant product application guide.

Coating in Poor Condition - If the existing coating shows signs of blistering, flaking, cracking, or loss of adhesion to the substrate:

- Remove all existing coatings using a suitable paint remover such as **Skipper's Line Stripcarena** (water-thinnable remover) or by mechanical sanding.
- Once coatings have been fully removed, proceed with surface preparation as described for **bare GRP / FRP substrates**.

Previously Painted Surfaces – Below the Waterline

Antifouling in Good Condition - If the existing antifouling is in good condition:

- Remove any loose, powdering, or friable material.
- Apply two coats of a new antifouling product that is compatible with the existing system.

If the existing antifouling type is unknown, it is recommended to apply **1–2 coats of Skipper's Line Solver Primer** prior to the application of the new antifouling.

Antifouling in Poor Condition - If the existing antifouling shows cracking, flaking, blistering, or loss of adhesion:

- Remove the antifouling using a suitable remover such as **Skipper's Line Stripcarena**.
- Thoroughly remove all residues, dust, and contaminants.
- Proceed with preparation as described for **bare GRP / FRP substrates** before applying the new coating system.

One – Component Indicative Coating Systems

1. Bottom Coating System – Below Waterline					
No of Coats	**Product Name**	**Thinner**		**Coverage (m2/Lt)**	**Recoating (at 20˚C)**
1-2	**Unifiber Primer**	0-5% Brush 765	10-20% Spray 765	10	Min 6 hours
1-2	**Solver Primer**/intermediate coat	10-25% Brush 400	15-30% Spray 400	4-6	Min 6 hours
2	**Standard Plus** Antifouling	Max 5% Brush 400	10% Spray 400	10-12	18-24 hours

2. Topside Coating System – Above Waterline					
No of Coats	**Product Name**	**Thinner**		**Coverage:(m2/Lt)**	**Recoating (at 20˚C)**
1-2	**Unifiber Primer**	0-5% Brush 765	10-20% Spray 765	10	Min 6 hours
2-3	**Sottofondo** Undercoat	10-20% Brush 107	20-30% Spray 900	9-10	18-24 hours
2	**Topkapi** Yacht Paint or **Topkapi Satin** Yacht Paint	10-20% Brush 107/109 10-20% Brush 107/109	10-25% Spray 900 10-25% Spray 900	11-13 11-13	18-24 hours 18-24 hours

Two – Component Indicative Coating Systems

1. Bottom Coating System – Below Waterline					
No of Coats	**Product Name**	**Thinner**		**Coverage (m2/Lt)**	**Recoating (at 20˚C)**
1-2	**Epofond AM/9** Epoxy Primer	10-15% Brush 765	15-25% Spray 765	8-9	12-24 hours
1-2	**Solver Primer** intermediate	10-25% Brush 400	15-30% Spray 400	4-6	Min 6 hours
2	**Standard Plus** Antifouling	Max 5% Brush 400	10% Spray 400	10-12	18-24 hours

2. Bottom Coating System – Below Waterline – Osmosis Prevention					
No of Coats	**Product Name**	**Thinner**		**Coverage (m2/Lt)**	**Recoating (at 20˚C)**
2-3	**Epofond HB** Epoxy Primer	10-15% Brush 765	15-20% Spray 765	4-5	12-24 hours
1-2	**Solver Primer**/intermediate coat	10-25% Brush 400	15-30% Spray 400	4-6	Min 6 hours
2	**Standard Plus** Antifouling	Max 5% Brush 400	10% Spray 400	10-12	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 or **Space Top Pro Finish** Yacht Paint or **Whitext Bucciato** Textured Finish	15-25% Brush 205 20-30% Brush 205/201 5-10% Brush 205	20-35% Spray 203 20-35% Spray 205/201 5-10% Spray 203	10 13-14 5-6	24 hours 18-24 hours 24 hours

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.*