Painting Wood

Boats are constructed using a wide range of timber species, and it is common—particularly in traditional vessels—for multiple wood types to be used throughout different structural and cosmetic areas. Each timber species has its own characteristics, which influence its suitability for specific applications and the type of coating system required.
Correct identification of the wood substrate is essential when selecting an appropriate paint or varnish system. Using an incompatible coating can lead to adhesion failure, moisture ingress, or reduced coating life. Where there is any uncertainty regarding coating selection or surface preparation, it is recommended to consult **Skipper's Line** technical representatives for advice and system recommendations.

The guidance below outlines general surface preparation and application procedures for wooden substrates.

Surface Preparation – Bare Wood

(Above and Below the Waterline)

1. Thoroughly clean and degrease the wooden substrate to remove all traces of oil, grease, and contaminants. This is particularly important when working with naturally oily timbers.
2. Sand the surface **along the grain only**, either mechanically or by hand, using medium-fine abrasive paper (P80–P280) to create a suitable key for the coating system.
3. Remove all sanding dust and residues by brushing and vacuuming thoroughly.
4. Wipe down the surface using a lint-free cloth dampened with **Thinner 203**, and allow to dry completely.
5. Apply the first coat of the recommended Skipper's Line yacht primer, strictly following the product application guide.

Previously Painted Surfaces – Topsides

Coating in Good Condition
If the existing coating is sound, with no cracking, blistering, flaking, or loss of adhesion:

1. Clean and degrease the surface thoroughly.
2. Abrade using medium-fine abrasive paper (P180–P320) to provide a mechanical key.
3. Remove all dust and sanding residues prior to coating.
4. Proceed with application of the appropriate primer or undercoat, followed by the selected topcoat.

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

- Remove all existing coatings back to bare wood using a suitable remover such as **Skipper's Line Svernigraf**, or by sanding and scraping.
- Ensure all residues and dust are fully removed.
- Prepare the surface in accordance with the **Bare Wood** preparation guidelines before applying the new coating system.

Previously Painted Surfaces – Below the Waterline

Antifouling in Good Condition
Where the existing antifouling is in good condition and reapplication is required:

- Lightly abrade the surface using a medium abrasive paper, ensuring all marine growth is removed and the coating is sound.
- **Do not dry sand antifouling**, as dust is toxic—use a suitable remover where required.
- After thorough cleaning, apply **two coats of antifouling**.

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

Antifouling in Poor Condition

If the existing coating shows loss of adhesion, flaking, or blistering:

- Remove the old antifouling using a suitable remover such as **Skipper's Line Stripcarena** or mechanically scrape back to bare wood or primer.
- Remove all residues and contaminants from the surface.
- Apply the appropriate primer system to create an effective moisture barrier before applying antifouling.

Note: Antifouling coatings protect only against marine growth and fouling; they do not provide structural or corrosion protection.

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	**Sottofondo Arancio AT Primer**	15-25% Brush 107	15-30% Spray 107	7-9	24 hours
3	**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	**Sottofondo Arancio AT Primer**	15-25% Brush 107	15-30% Spray 107	7-9	24 hours
2-3	**Solver Primer**/intermediate Coat	10-25% Brush 400	15-30% Spray 400	4-6	Min 6 hours
1-2	**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	**Epowood** Primer or **Underglass** Varnish	Ready for use Brush & Spray (765 if required) 10-15% Brush 205	15-20% Spray 203	12-15 8-10	Min 6 hours 8-10 hours
2	**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	**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	**Epowood** Primer or **Underglass** Varnish	Ready for use Brush & Spray (765 if required) 10-15% Brush 205	15-20% Spray 203	12-15 8-10	Min 6 hours 8-10 hours
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**	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.*