Varnishing Wood

High-quality varnishing is fundamental to the protection and appearance of wooden boat components. Achieving a durable, deep, and flawless finish depends entirely on correct surface preparation, product selection, and application technique. The guidance below outlines best practice for preparing wood and maintaining varnished surfaces using **Skipper's Line** yacht varnish systems.

Surface Preparation – Bare Wood

Correct preparation of bare wood is essential to ensure proper varnish penetration, adhesion, and long-term performance.

1. Thoroughly clean and degrease the wooden substrate to remove all traces of oil, grease, and contamination. This is particularly important when working with naturally oily timber species.

2. Sand the surface **along the grain only**, either mechanically or by hand, using medium-fine abrasive paper (P80–P280). This creates a uniform surface profile to provide an effective key for the varnish system.
    - **Do not sand across the grain**, as cross-scratches will remain visible through the varnish layers.

3. Remove all sanding dust and residues by brushing and vacuuming thoroughly.

4. Wipe down the surface using a lint-free cloth lightly moistened with **Thinner 203**, and allow the surface to dry completely.

When applying the first coat of varnish, reduce the chosen Skipper's Line yacht varnish with its **recommended thinner and dilution ratio**, as specified in the product technical data sheet. This initial thinned coat promotes deeper penetration into the timber and ensures optimum adhesion.

Once the first coat has cured, proceed with the selected Skipper's Line varnishing system, following the recommended recoat intervals and application guidelines.

Existing Varnish – In Good Condition

Where the existing varnish is sound, with good adhesion and no signs of cracking, blistering, or flaking:

1. Lightly abrade the surface using fine abrasive paper (P180–P320) to provide a mechanical key.

2. Thoroughly clean and degrease the surface, ensuring all dust and sanding residues are removed.

3. Apply **1–3 coats** of a yacht varnish that is compatible with the existing system, following the product application guide.

If the type of existing varnish is unknown, it is recommended to either:

- Remove the varnish back to bare wood, **or**
- Carry out a test patch to confirm compatibility before proceeding with full application.

Existing Varnish – In Poor Condition

If the existing varnish shows signs of deterioration such as cracking (crazing), blistering, flaking, loss of adhesion, blackening of the timber, or significant colour loss:

- Remove all existing varnish back to bare wood by sanding and scraping.
- Thoroughly clean and degrease the surface.
- Prepare the substrate following the **Bare Wood** preparation procedure before applying the new varnish system.

Key Notes for Best Results

- Environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, and dew point) should always be monitored during varnish application.
- Thin, well-applied coats produce superior clarity and durability compared to heavy applications.
- Regular maintenance coats significantly extend the service life of varnished surfaces.

One-Component Indicative Coating Systems for Exterior and Interior

1. Exterior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Touch Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
4-8	**Tropical UV –** Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-13	8-12 hrs	24-36 hrs
	or					
	Topkapi UV - Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-14	4 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Superwind - Traditional	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-13	6-8 hrs	24 hrs

2. Exterior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Touch Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
1	**Poliglass** ("6 coats a day" primer)	50-100% Brush 203	50-100% Spray 203	10	15-20mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Underglass (2-pack sealer)	30-40% Brush 107	30-40% Spray 900	8-10	10-15mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
1-5	**Poliglass** – ("6 coats a day" primer)	10-30% Brush 203/205	20-30% Spray 203	10	15-20mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
	or					
2-3	**Poliglass Gel UV** (High Build Primer)	10-15% Brush 203/205	10-20% Spray 203	6-7	15-20mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
3-4	**Tropical UV –** Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-13	8-12hrs	24-36hrs
	or					
	Topkapi UV - Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-14	4 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Superwind - Traditional	10-15% Brush 107	10-20 % Spray 900	12-13	6-8 hrs	24 hrs

3. Interior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Touch Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
2-5	**Topkapi Opaca** - Matt	15-20% Brush 107	20-30% Spray 900	10	6 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Superwind Satinata - Satin	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-13	6-8 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Bekol – Matt	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	8-10	3-4 hrs	24 hrs

4. Interior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Touch Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
1-2	**Poliglass** ("6 coats a day" primer)	50-100% Brush 203	50-100% Spray 203	10	15-20mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Underglass (2 pack sealer)	30-40% Brush 107	30-40% Spray 900	8-10	10-15mins (dust dry)	8-10 hrs
3-4	**Tropical UV-** Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-13	8-12hrs	24-36hrs
	or					
	Topkapi UV - Premium	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	12-14	4 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Superwind - Traditional	10-15% Brush 107	10-20 % Spray 900	12-13	6-8 hrs	24 hrs
	or					
	Bekol	10-15% Brush 107	10-20% Spray 900	8-10	3-4 hrs	24 hrs

Two-Component Indicative Coating Systems for Exterior and Interior

1. Exterior Systems

No of Coat	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Dust Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
1	**Poliglass** ("6 coats a day" primer)	50-100% Brush 203	50-100% Spray 203	10	15-20mins	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Underglass (2-Pack sealer)	30-40% Brush 107	30-40% Spray 900	8-10	10-15mins	8-10 hrs
1-5	**Poliglass** – ("6 coats a day" primer)	10-30% Brush 203/205	20-30% Spray 203	10	15-20mins	8-10 hrs
	or					
2-4	**Poliglass Gel UV** (High Build Primer)	10-15% Brush 203/205	10-20% Spray 203	6-7	15-20mins	8-10 hrs
3-4	**Acriglass UV**	10-15% Brush 205	20-30% Spray 203	10-12	40-50mins	24 hrs
	or					
	Space Clear 3/1 UV	10-15% Brush 205/201	10-20% Spray 203/201	12	30-60mins	24 hrs

Two-Component Indicative Coating Systems for Exterior and Interior (continued)

2. Exterior Systems

No of Coat	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Dust Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
5-8	**Acriglass UV**	10-15% Brush 205	20-30% Spray 203	10-12	40-50mins	24 hrs
	or					
	Space Clear 3/1 UV	10-15% Brush 205/201	10-20% Spray 203/201	12	30-60mins	24 hrs
	or					
	Poliglass Gel UV	10-15% Brush 205	10-20% Spray 203/201	6-7	15-20mins	8-10 hrs

3. Interior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Dust Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
1-2	**Poliglass** ("6 coats a day")	50-100% Brush 203	50-100% Spray 203	10	15-20 mins	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Underglass (2-Pack sealer)	30-40% Brush 107	30-40% Spray 900	8-10	10-15 mins	8-10 hrs
2-4	**Poliglass** – Gloss Finish	10-15% Brush 203/205	20-30% Spray 203	10	15-20 mins	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Polisatin – Satin Finish	0-5% Brush 205	5-10% Spray 203	8	5-15 mins	8-12 hrs
	or					
	Polimatt – Matt Finish	5-10% Brush 205	10-20% Spray 203	8	15-20 mins	8-12 hrs

4. Interior Systems

No of Coats	Product Name	Thinner		Coverage (m2/Lt)	Dust Dry (at 20˚C)	Recoating (at 20˚C)
4-6	**Poliglass** – Gloss Finish	10-15% Brush 203/205	20-30% Spray 203	10	15-20 mins	8-10 hrs
	or					
	Polisatin – Satin Finish	0-5% Brush 205	5-10% Spray 203	8	5-15 mins	8-12 hrs
	or					
	Polimatt – Matt Finish	5-10% Brush 205	10-20% Spray 203	8	15-20 mins	8-12 hrs

** 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.*