



## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE OF YACHT TOPCOATS



*YachtCoatings*

# Cleaning and Maintenance of Yacht Topcoats

The function of the yacht topcoat is not only providing an attractive mirror like gloss finish, but more importantly for the protection the yacht's structure and substrates.

In cases of abrasion or deep scratches, an immediate repair is recommended to avoid the penetration of humidity into the substrate as this may cause blistering, rust or de-lamination of the paint layers. For every touch up or repair, only the Boero products should be used according to project maintenance specification. For the paint film to remain intact, keeping its gloss finish, and avoiding premature ageing, there are some simple maintenance rules that should be followed.



## Important

Wash bird excrements carefully and eliminate them completely as they are acidic and very aggressive to paints

Cleaning is one of the easiest tasks that the boat owner or crew can undertake producing a result that is immediately visible; it also has the potential for quick and irreversible damage if not done carefully and following some basic rules.

General maintenance of yacht topcoats should consist of freshwater cleaning. For best results, cleaning often/regularly with pure water instead of less frequently and using detergents. The frequency of cleaning will depend on the atmospheric and environmental conditions as well as the location and use of the yacht.

## Safety first

Some boat cleaning products available, are either strongly acid based, like rust remover, or strong alkaline based, like degreaser.

Always read the manufacturer's full Health & Safety guidelines and all instructions for use that are printed on the label.

Wear (If required):

- Safety glasses
- Chemical resistant gloves

When working on a slippery deck surface wear:

- Suitable deck shoes or footwear
- Safety harness or line
- Life jacket



## Tools

As with most jobs, using the correct equipment makes the task easier. The material requirements for keeping your boat clean are few and uncomplicated and can easily be found in most marinas:



### Brushes

Brushes with a soft texture (yellow) are suitable for use on painted surfaces. Brushes with a coarse texture (white) should not be used on painted surfaces but reserved for use on non-slip decks and other tough surfaces. Use an old toothbrush to get to those difficult-to-reach areas.



### A Squeegee

A silicon blade with a handle used to wipe water from the surface for removal of surface water and to aid drying.



### A bucket

Use a clean bucket to prevent contamination of the surface, when adding a cleaning agent (Shampoo) to the water, observe the recommended dilution.



### A chamois

A synthetic chamois is fine for drying and they are cheaper and longer lasting than the natural version too!

## Wash Down

Wet the painted surface with a low-pressure freshwater jet to remove salt residue.

- To minimise streaks, wash regularly with plenty of freshwater, preferably from a supply fitted with water-softening equipment.
- Use a biodegradable and pH neutral detergent for heavy surface dirt or staining, cleaning using a non-abrasive sponge, rinsing thoroughly with plenty of fresh water
- Rinse carefully with fresh water and wipe dry with a chamois leather or similar.
- Once you have finished washing the boat, dry it as quickly as possible to prevent water marks, paying attention to areas such as doors, hatches, window frames and all other areas where water can remain stagnant.



For improved paint maintenance and protection, apply periodically (every three or four months) a non-abrasive silicon and teflon free protective wax or sealer.

Following the instructions, apply the wax product in thin layers, remove its residue carefully, buffing the surface with dry microfibre or natural cotton cloths, or foam pad if using a machine. It is advisable to clean small areas at a time. Do not apply on hot surfaces or in direct sunlight. Avoid applying aggressive products such as SiO<sub>2</sub> based ceramic coatings, as its deeply penetrating the paint film and may lead to complications during future further topcoat applications.

Following these simple rules, the gloss, colour and resistance of the painted surfaces will be easily maintained offering a finish with years of service.

### ⚠ Attention

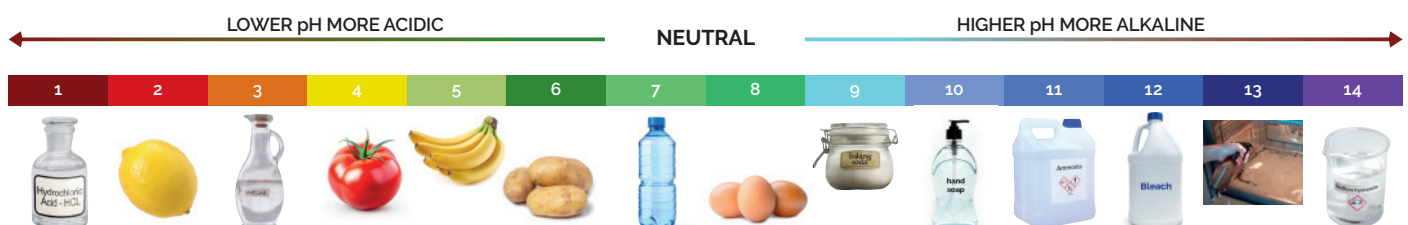
- Do not wash surfaces when hot (for example after long exposure to sunlight) to avoid alteration of gloss.
- Do not use vinegar or other acidic materials in washing water,
- Never clean surfaces with solvents, non pH neutral products.
- Never use abrasive materials such as Vim, Cif, Scotch-Brite. Scratches would facilitate deposits of dirt and salt, hence reducing the lifetime of the initial gloss.
- Do not cover the surfaces immediately after washing but leave in open air to facilitate evaporation of remaining water.
- Do not leave wet cloths or objects (such as pillows, ropes, sails, sail bags, etc.) on painted surfaces for extended periods, as this can cause blistering and delamination of the paint.
- When using teak cleaning products, avoid splashing painted surfaces as these cleaners generally contain alkaline caustic products that can stain and discolour the topcoat. Remove immediately with plenty of fresh water if this happens.
- Don't let cleaning products dry in the paint surface.
- Ropes and mooring lines should not be left to rub freely the hull.
- Fenders should be cleaned regularly in order to avoid dust and salt spray dried in the surface which could be rubbing the paint while fender is moving.
- Avoid suncreams residues by regularly cleaning the contact areas of this types of products.

The Boero Challenger Pro products can be polished. However, this is to be considered as a repair procedure, mainly for localized damages, before going into a general re-paints work. Hence polishing should not be considered a regular maintenance procedure, but a localized repair process.

Always remove all polishing products / residues. For more information, please check the Boero Polishing Procedure.

## What is pH

pH (potential of Hydrogen) is a numeric scale used to specify the acidity or basicity of an aqueous solution. Solutions with a pH less than 7 are acidic and solutions with a pH greater than 7 are basic. Pure water is neutral, at pH 7.



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