

COPPERCOAT ANTI-FOULING

FOR THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF COPPERCOAT, MAKE SURE TO READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

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Aquarius Marine Coatings' Coppercoat anti-fouling is based on a water miscible epoxy resin which is heavily loaded with pure grade (99%) fine copper powder and a mix of biocides. When fully cured, this hard wearing epoxy treatment, which contains no banned compounds and is fully certified by the Health and Safety Executive (No. 7532), forms a durable coating that offers exceptional long term resistance to marine fouling.

Surface Preparation:

GRP: As is common with all epoxy coatings, it is important that the substrate to be coated is well prepared. All surfaces must be cleaned of all contaminants, including dirt, dust, grease, rust or loose paint. Two-pack epoxy coatings, such as Coppercoat, must be applied to sound and permanent substrates – consequently all surfaces must be cleaned of any previously applied single-pack paint coatings or conventional anti-fouling. The best way to achieve this is to low-pressure slurry blast the hull, though old paint can be removed by hand. Finally, the hull must be abraded to provide a good key for the new epoxy coating. The most efficient method is to use a random orbital electric sander, with 60 to 120 grade discs and paper. Remove the resulting dust before proceeding with the Coppercoat application.

Iron, Steel, Aluminium, Ferro-Cement, Wood: All can be equally successfully treated with Coppercoat. However, once these substrates have been cleaned, they must be primed with the appropriate epoxy system before proceeding with the Coppercoat application. Full instructions can be obtained from Aquarius Marine Coatings, as can a full range of the necessary epoxy primers.

Mixing:

Coppercoat is supplied in three parts; Pack A (resin), Pack B (hardener), and a bag of fine copper powder. Diligently mix Pack A with Pack B in an appropriately sized plastic container, then continue to mix while carefully adding the copper powder. Stir until a fully homogeneous mix is obtained, with all the copper held in suspension. Note: during the mixed pot life, the copper may settle to the bottom of the mixing bucket – consequently ensure to stir the product regularly to maintain the copper suspension.

Pot Life:

The mixed pot life of Coppercoat is 60 minutes at 10 degrees Centigrade, 45 minutes at 20 degrees Centigrade and 30 minutes at 30 degrees Centigrade. Never mix more product than can easily be applied within the time available. We recommend that Coppercoat be mixed one litre unit at a time.

Thinning:

Coppercoat should only be thinned with Iso-Propanol (available from Aquarius Marine Coatings). Under normal circumstances Coppercoat may be thinned (if necessary) by 5% for application by roller. Up to 20% thinner may be added for application by spray.

Environmental Conditions:

Do not attempt to apply Coppercoat if the ambient or hull temperatures are below 8 degrees Centigrade. With the epoxy being water miscible until cured, protect the hull from rain for 48 hours.

Application:

The product should always be applied directly after mixing. Do not attempt to apply Coppercoat by brush. For application by roller, short-pile simulated mohair or high quality neoprene foam sleeves should be used (but not light duty cardboard-backed foam rollers). Coppercoat can also be applied by conventional spray – please contact Aquarius Marine Coatings for fuller details.

Under normal circumstances a minimum of four coats are required. Second, third and fourth coats should be applied as soon as the previous coat allows – i.e. after approximately one hour at 20 degrees Centigrade. To ensure a satisfactory chemical bond between coats, all the required coats should be applied consecutively in a single day. Note: on most boats, by the time the first coat has been completed, the start point is sufficiently cured to accept the second coat – consequently the application of the Coppercoat system is a continuous one. If the vessel to be treated is too large to be painted with all coats in one day by the workforce available, simply treat a manageable sized section – apply all the necessary coats to this section from start to finish in one day, before proceeding with a further section at a later date. If any product is left over after four coats have been applied, continue the application until it is all used – this will ensure that the correct depth of copper is present. Never attempt to apply a coat too thickly as this will result in sagging and runs. Although the full cure is obtained after 5 days, the coating will be ready to launch after 72 hours at 20 degrees centigrade. The cure rate will be faster in warmer conditions and slower in cooler conditions. Treated boats will benefit from having the cured Coppercoat surface lightly burnished with fine “wet and dry” paper or sanding pad prior to immersion – this will expose the copper powder and increase the immediate potency of the anti-fouling. This process is particularly beneficial in areas of high fouling.

Coverage Rate:

The effective coverage rate for a finished application is 4 square metres per litre. Therefore, a hull of 40 square metres in area will need 10 litres of Coppercoat in total for a complete treatment.

Shelf Life:

12 months in sealed pots at 20 degrees Centigrade. Shelf life will be shortened if stored in warmer conditions. Keep protected from frost.

Tool Cleaning:

If the epoxy has not yet cured, equipment can be cleaned in warm water. If necessary use Iso-Propanol thinners. Do not use white spirit, naphtha or methylated spirits.

Maintenance:

When correctly applied, this long life epoxy anti-fouling treatment should continue to deter marine fouling for many years so that the annual chore of repainting, as associated with conventional anti-fouling, is no longer necessary. Damaged areas can be touched-up as required. If, over the months, a slight accumulation of slime does appear, this can be removed by pressure washing or brushing. An annual wash or brush is recommended. Eventually, after several years, the surface may need to be lightly abraded with a fine grade of “wet and dry” paper or a sanding pad to expose fresh copper.

Precautions:

Follow usual good hygiene practices and wash skin free of any product immediately, before it cures, using soap and warm water. Any splashes to the eyes should be washed immediately with plenty of clean water and medical advice sought. Read the hazard labels.

If you are in any doubt over the use or application of Coppercoat, please contact Aquarius Marine Coatings Ltd for further advice and information.

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