

COPPERCOAT® ANTI-FOULING

FOR THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF COPPERCOAT®, MAKE SURE YOU READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY (Revision: Published May 14 - 2012)

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.

Important note: Please do watch the Coppercoat® Application film prior to commencing. If you do not have a copy, it can be viewed on-line from the home page of www.coppercoat.com

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 - either using a soft brush or cloth. The hull can be washed with fresh water, but ensure this is allowed to dry before proceeding. Under no circumstances clean the hull with any solvents or oil-based products (such as Acetone).

Iron, Steel, Aluminium, Ferro-Cement, and 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. Finally, stir in the Iso-Propanol thinner to achieve the desired consistency (see below). 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. (Tip - mixed Coppercoat® should not be stirred continually - stir it to incorporate any settled copper immediately prior to pouring it into the roller tray).

Pot Life:

The mixed pot life of Coppercoat® is approximately 40 minutes at 10 degrees Centigrade, 30 minutes at 20 degrees Centigrade and 20 minutes at 30 degrees Centigrade. Never mix more product than can easily be applied by the workforce available within the time available. To avoid waste 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). Always add the thinners to the Coppercoat® at the start of the mixing process - never add thinners later when the coating thickens as this can adversely affect the curing process. For application by roller we recommend that the Coppercoat® be thinned by up to 5%. For application by spray it is necessary to thin by approximately 15% to 20%. (Tip - depending on temperature, we generally add approximately 3 capfuls of thinners to each litre mix of Coppercoat®, using the cap of half-litre plastic thinners bottle as the measure.)

Environmental Conditions:

Do not attempt to apply Coppercoat® if the ambient or hull temperatures are below 8 degrees Centigrade. Coppercoat® is water based, so the cure rate is affected by temperature, humidity and air-flow. With the epoxy being water miscible until cured, protect the hull from rain for at least 48 hours (or until hard to the touch).

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. (Tip - the supplying dealer should ensure that you have sufficient material for a complete treatment. Therefore simply keep applying the product in thin coats until you have nothing left.)

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. It is not unusual for a fifth coat to be needed. Never attempt to apply any individual coat too thickly as this will result in sagging and runs. Although the full cure is obtained after 5 days, the coating should be sufficiently cured to allow a launch after 72 hours at 20 degrees centigrade. The cure rate will be fastest in warm, dry, breezy conditions and slowest in cool, damp, still conditions. (Tip - if the coating is sufficiently hard that you cannot mark it when poking it with your thumbnail, it is hard enough to withstand the boat being lifted by the crane and launched.)

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. (Tip - we recommend using 600 grade paper, wet, or a Scotchbrite sanding pad and lightly rubbing the surface in a fashion similar to applying polish to a car bonnet.)

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 many 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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