

### WHAT REPAIR AND UPKEEP IS REQUIRED?

Areas where there is considerable foot traffic or harsh abrasion, such as gunwale rails and coaming sides, will need frequent repair to keep them in pristine condition. While the high performance systems offer excellent resistance to abrasion they can still wear through in excessive circumstances. As conventional and premium one-part systems are considerably easier to touch in and make good than the harder high performance systems, they are more suitable for these areas.



PREPARATION FOR VARNISH WORK	
	<i>To achieve a good finish, the condition of the existing varnish should be thoroughly checked to determine the extent of the preparation required.</i>
1	Look for areas of damage, separation or peeling or any other signs that the varnish does not have a firm hold on the substrate.
2	Clean and prepare the surface by washing with Super Cleaner to remove any contamination. Then inspect again to ensure no damage has been missed.
3	<b>VARNISH – GOOD CONDITION – NO DAMAGE:</b> Sand with 280-320 grade wet or dry paper and when dry, wipe with a dust wipe.
	<b>VARNISH – GOOD CONDITION – SOME DAMAGE:</b> These areas may be repaired using Interfill 100. Spot priming and varnishing may then be required and the area rubbed down prior to the full varnish job.
	<b>VARNISH – POOR CONDITION:</b> If the previous varnish coating is cracking, peeling or generally showing signs of separation over the whole area, it should be totally removed by either scraping, sanding or with a chemical paint stripper.

**PRO TIP:** Always work in the direction of the grain, whether sanding or applying varnish. This will avoid scratches that can even show through many coats of varnish.



APPLYING VARNISH	
1	We recommend that the first coat of varnish applied is thinned up to 15%. This will promote good penetration of the surface and adhesion of subsequent coats.
2	After the first coat has been applied the surface will appear rough. This is a result of the exposed ends of grain absorbing the varnish and lifting. Sand smooth with a medium grade paper – 320 to 400.
3	Applying varnish with a brush is usually the best method, although roller application can be effective on large flat surfaces.  Brush out the varnish with firm strokes along and across the grain holding the brush at 90° to the surface. Then 'tip-off' by gently stroking the surface with the brush at 45°, following the grain. Your brush should be used for varnish only.
4	A minimum of three full, un-thinned coats is recommended for all varnishes. However, to achieve long lasting protection, you should plan to apply up to ten coats, depending on the system. As the number of coats increases, sand in between to increase the level of gloss and depth of lustre.

HINTS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE A PERFECT RESULT EVERY TIME	
✓ Round the edges of any scrapers with a file to avoid gouging.	✓ After cleaning with the correct thinners, wash the brush in detergent and warm water, dry and wrap in greaseproof paper in a fine chisel shape.
✓ Keep the sandpaper clean and change it frequently.	✓ Alternatively, having cleaned and washed the brush, suspend by its handle to avoid any 'fishtailing' of the bristle.
✓ Sand by numbers, finishing the surface with a progressively finer grade of paper.	✓ As the varnish ages in the tin you may find there are lumps or contamination. Sieving the varnish into a separate container through cheesecloth, a paint filter or an old stocking is a good solution to this problem.
✓ Varnishing is best achieved on warm, dry mornings – cold weather slows drying and damp spoils the gloss.	✓ Never apply direct from the can, as this will introduce contamination.
✓ Always use a clean brush, previously used only for varnish.	✓ Always pour the amount of varnish that you expect to use at any one time, into a separate container.
✓ Always buy the highest quality varnish and brush available. This will ensure you achieve the most attractive finish.	✓ Don't use varnish which has been open for a long period as it will have picked up dust.
✓ Clean new brushes before use.	✓ Do not varnish wood when exposed to direct sunlight.
✓ Test the finish on a spare piece of wood before applying to the boat.	✓ Never leave bare wood exposed too long as it will absorb moisture from the atmosphere.
✓ On large areas use a foam roller to apply the initial coat, followed immediately behind with a wide brush for the finishing strokes – this is best done by two people.	