

Cleaning Boats and Testing surfaces

CLEANING: All boats have bacteria, mold, and mildew. They need to be killed to have a successful application of any coating. Use a cup of Clorox in a gallon of water solution and as many gallons as it will take. Use a garden sprayer and spray the part of the boat to be coated and keep it wet for 20 minutes. Now take a 2500 PSI pressure washer, and a 15 degree nozzle, and hold the tip 4 to 6 inches from the surface. You are not trying to destroy the surface, just get it clean. Wash right to left, then up and down or do two passes to try to clean and rinse off the Clorox and any dirt, grease, oil or the like off the surface of the substrate. Let dry or put fans on it to get it dry quickly.

NOW DO THE 2 INCH PATCH TEST:

Always use the **2 inch path test**. When you think your substrate surface is ready to go, take a 2 inch throw away chip brush, and apply some 2 inch by 2 inch patches onto your prepared substrate. Look for any variations in color or texture of surface and put a patch in those areas. Use the first day to prep your substrate. Just before you go home, apply the patches. Let them sit for 8 to 10 hours at least. By then the Durabak is dried and is starting to cure-out, and is like a very stiff rubber band. Place a pocket knife blade under the Durabak on top of the substrate, and pull straight up. The Durabak material will stretch like a stiff rubber band and your knife blade should eventually cut through the material. If this happens, you are ready to go.

If the patch peels up, look at the back side. You will see one of two things: either it is going to have a lot of dust and debris on it - and then you would need to re-clean the area - or the back side will be very shiny. If it is shiny and dry, you need a water based urethane primer on only that area of your test. If it is shiny and slimy, either the surface needs to be re-cleaned, or there is oil in your substrate, and an oil or solvent base urethane primer must be used. Please test all projects before the application, because it may save you from untold problems. Our goal is for you to have a great project to remember, not one that requires extensive reworking.