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Topcoat (flowcoat) Instructions :

What is Topcoat?

Also known as flowcoat is the term used for gelcoat which has had wax solution added to allow it to be used as a finish like gelcoat where it is not possible to use a fiberglass mould.

All polyester gelcoats suffer from inhibited cure when in contact with the oxygen in the atmosphere. Topcoats contain a low percentage of wax, which is not really soluble in the gelcoat and floats to the surface. This blocks out the air and ensures a full surface cure. Gelcoat is normally applied to a mould surface which is not exposed.

Wax solution is added to the gelcoat at 2% by weight to prevent surface tackiness. The gelcoat has now become topcoat and should never be used for anything other than topcoating as resin & gelcoat will not adhere to it. Topcoat is not a high finish paint but it does make a very waterproof hard wearing surface for fiberglass. When dry some brush marks may be evident. When fully cured it can be sanded with wet & dry paper followed by polishing with cutting compound.

STEPS :

These are basic instructions based on simple repair. There are many techniques that can be adopted, we find YOU TUBE a good source of info to look up a similar project.

Additional items required - Not provided but useful

Disposable gloves

Kitchen scales

Empty plastic pot for mixing (clean)

Wet and dry paper and polishing and compounding - to finish and polish repair area

Preperation:

1. Preparation is critical for a good outcome, for the Topcoat to bond. The repair area needs to be completely dry and all loose material completely removed. It needs to have a good mechanical anchor; it is essential to prepare by sanding the area first. If you wish you can mask off the working area first before thoroughly sanding the area. Acetone can be used to degrease and clean the area. If Topcoat is applied to very recently applied fibreglass then sanding preparation can be omitted.
2. Mix the Topcoat – Thorough mixing is critical for a good outcome. DO NOT GUESS the quantities – please use scales and mix at 2% Ratio. For example – for 100ml of resin add 2ml of hardener. For 50ml Topcoat – add 1ml of hardener. Top tip – Use a little more gelcoat than required, easier to sand back when fully cured.



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3. Leave to cure, If ambient temps of 15 Deg C or more expect curing in 24hours. If in cold conditions, extra time may be needed. We advise that the product is NOT used in very hot conditions above 25 deg C in direct sunlight. This can problems with the dissolved wax and leave tacky areas.

4. The cured repair can be finished to your requirements, the finish is of course very subjective. The Topcoat can be sanded and also smoothed using wet and dry sandpaper. Polishing compounds work really well to get a high gloss finish that will merge with the existing surface.

Safety:

We strongly advise you use the resin with good ventilation and always use protective gloves.

Please dispose of any unused resin responsibly

We can provide a full MSDS upon request

Hazards Identification

- Irritating to eyes and skin.
- May cause sensitization by skin contact

Environmental hazard:

- Toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

Primary route of exposure: Skin contact

Symptoms relating to use:

- Inhalation - None
- Skin contact - Initial moderate skin irritation. Prolonged or repeated skin contact will remove natural oils which may lead to dermatitis.
- Eye contact - Contact with eyes is likely to be irritating.
- Ingestion - Abdominal pain, nausea.

First aid measures

- Inhalation: Assure fresh air breathing
- Skin contact: Wash skin thoroughly with mild soap and water, seek medical attention if irritation develops.
- Eye contact: Rinse immediately with plenty of water.