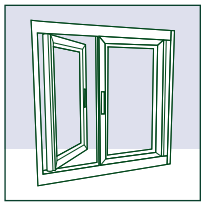
Applying finishes

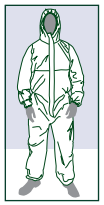
Before starting any painting project consider the 3 most critical questions: **1**) What preparation is necessary **2**) Does the substrate matter and **3**) What repair and upkeep is needed. Page 42 of this guide will provide this information and help you choose the best product for your project.

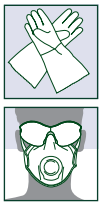
Neil Nicolson
Specialist in Finishes Development

1 Health and Safety

Before commencing preparatory work, ensure the area you are working in is adequately ventilated. Ensure you are wearing the correct PPE; we recommend safety spectacles, goggles or visors, nitrile rubber gloves, overalls (ensuring skin is not exposed) and a solvent mask.







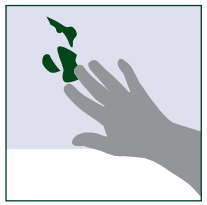
Before starting your project, **always check the weather conditions**! See **Pages 18-19**.

For health and safety reasons, two-part polyurethane products should only be spray applied by a professional applicator.

Previously painted surfaces:

2 Inspection

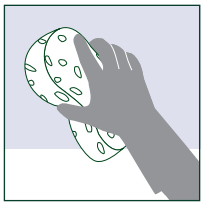
Check for areas of damage, separation or peeling, or any other indications that the existing coating is not firmly adhered to the substrate.

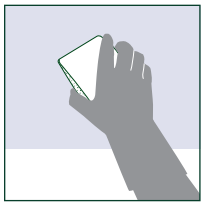


3 Preparation

In good condition

Clean with Super Cleaner to ensure any residual polish, wax or surface contaminants are removed. Rinse with fresh water and allow to dry. Sand smooth with 280-320 grade paper. Clean thoroughly and allow to dry completely. Continue at **Step 6**.





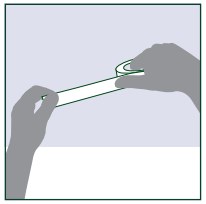
In poor condition

If previous finish is cracking, peeling or showing signs of separation from the substrate this should be totally removed.

See **Page 21** for advice on **removing existing finishes**.

4 Masking

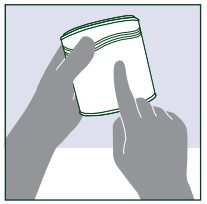
Before priming/ undercoating, mask off the area to be painted.



Bare substrate:

5 Priming

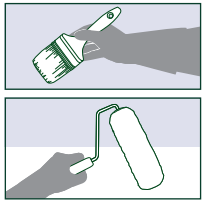
Bare substrates should be primed to promote good adhesion and provide a smooth even surface, prior to undercoating. Your choice of primer will be dictated by the substrate; product recommendations are provided on labels and data sheets. Remember to pay particular attention to drying times and overcoating intervals.



Due to the porous nature of aged gelcoats, the risk of moisture or solvent entrapment – leading to blisters – is increased; applying Interprotect followed by Perfection Undercoat can reduce this risk and seal the gelcoat, prior to applying the finish.

6 Undercoating

Primed or previously painted surfaces should be undercoated. An undercoat will provide additional depth of colour and improve the durability and film build of the overall paint system. International offers two undercoats for use with its finishes range.

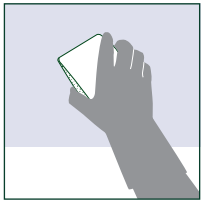


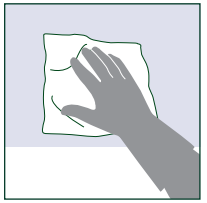
See **Pages 42-43** for **undercoat recommendations**.

Mixing the second coat of undercoat 50:50 with the topcoat will produce a satin effect, which will highlight any imperfections (to be sanded smooth) as well as improving the gloss and depth of colour of the finish.

7 Application

Sand the undercoat smooth with 320-400 grade paper and remove dust with a wipe or tack rag.





Apply the finish, according to label recommendations.

“Achieve a perfect result every time!”

- Ensure an even spread by holding the brush at 45° – this minimises brush marks.
- The best finish is achieved on large areas by two people, one to apply the paint, the other following immediately behind to ‘tip off’ the finish.
- Clean or change brushes every 20 minutes or so. Always use lint-free cleaning cloths.
- Stir the can occasionally during the work.
- Dampen the ground with water before commencing painting to avoid any dust rising.
- Use a worn brush for the final coat, this will ensure less brush marks.
- Painting is best achieved on warm, dry mornings – cold weather retards drying and damp will spoil the gloss.
- Never apply direct from the can as this will introduce contamination.
- Always pour the amount of paint that you expect to use into a separate container.

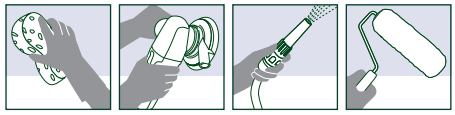
Painting Topsides

Are you considering painting your GRP topsides this year? If you are, have a look at our example application timetable to help you plan the application…

This painting scheme only applies if your gelcoat is in sound condition. If the gelcoat is old or has become porous it is essential to seal it first. For best results seal with a two pack epoxy primer such as Interprotect before applying the undercoat.

Day-by-Day Timetable – Pre-Kote/Toplac® Finish

DAY 1



Degrease the substrate to be painted using **International Super Cleaner**. Sand well with 180 grade sand paper, until an even matt finish is reached. Wash down with fresh water and allow to dry completely. Apply 1st coat of **Pre-Kote** by roller.

Top Tip: For best results use a dual action or orbital sander. This will prepare the surface quicker than sanding by hand, and unlike a square electric sander does not have sharp corners which can damage the substrate.

DAY 2

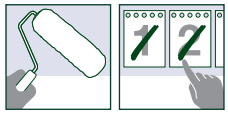
If any damages/defects require filling, apply **Watertite** to as smooth a finish as possible.

DAY 3

Sand **Watertite** with 180 grade sand paper and wash down. Apply 2nd coat of **Pre-Kote** by roller.

Top Tip: Applying a 50:50 **Pre-Kote/Toplac** mix at this stage will help achieve a more professional finish with the topcoat. It will also help **Toplac** cover the **Pre-Kote** undercoat if they are different colours.

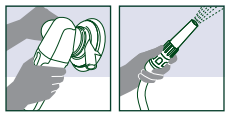
DAY 4



Carry out a visual colour check on the painted topsides – apply a 3rd coat/spot undercoat if necessary. Leave the last coat of **Pre-Kote** to dry for 48 hours.

Top Tip: **Pre-Kote** has a very high pigment content, which means it has very good hiding power or opacity. One of the main jobs of an undercoat is to provide a uniform colour of the substrate prior to the application of topcoat – this ensures that any repairs or discolouration will not ghost through **Toplac** and detract from the final finish. By performing a visual check at this stage, and spot undercoating where required, you ensure a uniform finish is achieved.

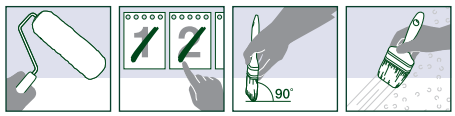
DAY 6



After the **Pre-Kote** has dried for 48 hours, sand with 320 grade sand paper to an even matt finish. Wash down with copious amounts of fresh water and allow to dry.

Top Tip: Good quality sand paper has a more uniform grit distribution and will retain its sharpness for longer than cheaper alternatives. If the sand paper is clogging easily and creating fish tails in the finish, try wet sanding. Fill a spray bottle with water and spray as needed onto the surface you are sanding. Remember to ensure your sand paper is suitable for wet sanding.

DAY 7

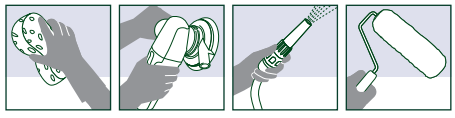


Apply 1st coat of **Toplac** in the morning (around 10am). Allow to dry for 2 days.

For best results, apply **Toplac** using the 'Roll and Tip' method. Working in 1ft wide sections, apply **Toplac** using a foam roller – roll in all directions to ensure an even application of paint. Tip off these sections using a good quality brush, which has been thoroughly wetted with paint (but not holding any excess paint). Run the brush vertically through the paint with a firm stroke, followed by a second much lighter stroke. It is easiest to work in pairs – one person rolling, the other person following behind and tipping off.

Top Tip: Start the application mid morning. This will ensure the surface is free of dew prior to application and will allow the paint a full day to dry before any evening condensation.

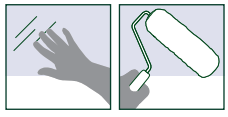
DAY 9



Key the surface with a 3M Maroon Scotch-Brite™, using fore and aft motions (i.e. not up and down or in swirls). If required, sand out defects such as sags and dust using 400-600 grade sand paper. Wipe down with a damp cloth to remove dust. Apply 2nd coat of **Toplac**.

A 3M Maroon Scotch-Brite™ will remove the surface tension from the 1st coat of **Toplac**, allowing the second coat to flow out more easily. Adding a soft interface pad underneath the sand paper on a dual action or orbital sander will help to reduce the likelihood of breaking through **Toplac** when sanding out defects.

DAY 10



Check opacity of the finish achieved. If necessary, repeat the previous step and apply a 3rd coat of **Toplac**.

International Paint Ltd. 1 Wellington Park, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire SO30 2QU Tel: +44 (0) 1489 77 50 50 Fax: +44 (0) 1489 78 58 67