



Owners Guide to Gelcoat Care and Maintenance

In composites products, service and information, CCP Composites Australia is **creating progress.**

We trust this care and maintenance guide contributes to your composite component's longevity.

Basic Maintenance

Exposure to sunlight, water, dust and chemicals can be detrimental to your gelcoat surface. Premature chalking, discolouration, yellowing or loss of gloss can result.

However simple periodic maintenance procedures will minimise these changes.

During storage, keep your component out of direct sunlight or cover with a canvas tarpaulin. Do not use sheet plastic or non-porous materials which trap moisture between itself and the component surface.

Wash the surface with a mild detergent. For optimum results, use a cleaner recommended for fibreglass composite and follow directions.

Do not use automatic dishwashing detergent, abrasives, bleaches, acid based chemicals or ammonia.

Wax at least bi-annually to restore gloss and protect your surface finish. Use only wax recommended for fibreglass composite and follow instructions carefully. Never wax your gelcoat surface in direct sunlight.



Corrective Procedures

Chalking

A cutting compound along with a mild detergent will reduce the weathering and chalk accumulated on your gelcoat surface. Use only a fine grit compound and follow instructions carefully.

For best results, wax after compounding. Do not apply cutting compound in direct sunlight.

Scratches, Nicks & Stains

Most scratches and nicks can be removed by using a cutting compound, followed by waxing as described above. Deep marks or gouges should be professionally repaired.

Most stains can be removed by washing with a mild detergent. For stubborn stains, use a fine abrasive household cleaner recommended for fibreglass composite, followed by waxing to restore lustre.

Non-water soluble stains such as grease, oil and rubber heel marks can be removed by using a solvent such as acetone, rubbing alcohol, toluene or xylene, followed immediately by a mild detergent.

If these solvents are ineffective, try a cutting compound, or furthermore a fine sand followed by a cutting compound and then waxing.



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