

# RECREATIONAL BOATER'S GUIDE TO USING HULL PAINT IN CALIFORNIA

## PAINT OPTIONS

← Most Environmentally Friendly

Least Environmentally Friendly →

### Non-Biocide Paints

- Hull paints that *do not* contain metals (such as copper or zinc) or other active ingredients.
- Estimated average useful life<sup>1</sup>: 5-10 years.
- Recommended cleaning: Every 2 to 4 weeks (frequency and method vary by product, season, environmental conditions, and region).
- Long term benefits include longer useful life (reduced haul outs). This may offset higher upfront application cost when compared to copper paints.
- **These paints are encouraged statewide, especially in waters impacted by copper pollution.**

#### Paint Examples<sup>3</sup>

- International Paint Intersleek 1100SR<sup>4</sup>
- Interlux VC Performance Epoxy
- Ram Protective Coatings CeRam-Kote

### Non-Copper Biocide Paints

- Hull paints containing zinc or other non-copper active ingredients (e.g., Ecomea<sup>®</sup>) to prevent marine growth on boat hulls.
- Estimated average useful life<sup>1</sup>: up to 2 years.
- Recommended cleaning: Every 3 to 4 weeks (frequency and method vary by product and season).
- Non-copper biocide paints do not result in the release of copper. However, these paints release other active ingredients that may lead to future water quality impacts.

#### Paint Examples<sup>3</sup>

- Epaint Ecominder
- Interlux Interspeed 5640
- Pettit Hydrocoat Eco

### Copper Paints<sup>2</sup>

- Hull paints using cuprous oxide (or other copper compounds) to impede growth of barnacles, algae, and marine fouling organisms.
- Estimated average useful life<sup>1</sup>: 2-3 years
- Recommended cleaning: Wait a minimum of 90 days after applying new hull paint before initiating cleaning.
- Boaters are encouraged to clean these hull paints only when needed, no more frequently than once every 30 days (methods vary by product and season).

#### Paint Examples<sup>3</sup>

- Micron Extra
- Pettit Vivid Antifouling Marine Paint
- Pettit Marine Paint Hydrocoat Ablative
- Seahawk Sharkskin

## DID YOU KNOW?

The need for cleaning depends on how you use your boat. Paint manufacturers recommend copper hull paints not be cleaned if the boat is used frequently. However, it is recommended to refer to the hull paint-specific and local boatyard recommendations for your boat's particular needs. Boaters are encouraged to use hull cleaning companies that use environmentally sound Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g., least abrasive tools/methods). Check for local hull cleaning BMP requirements in your area.

### READ THE FINE PRINT

Paint labels contain information not only for application but also maintenance. Always follow the guidance provided on the label<sup>5</sup>.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has developed a list of copper hull paints currently registered in California. You can research various options prior to getting your hull painted and inform the boatyard which type of paint (i.e. non-biocide, non-copper or copper biocide) you want to use on your boat.

<sup>1</sup> Hull paint life expectancies based on paint manufacturers' claims.

<sup>2</sup> Copper hull paints with leach rates over 9.5 µg/cm<sup>2</sup>/day are not allowed to be sold for use on recreational boats in California after June 30, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Paints are listed by manufacturer and paint name. Paint examples represent products known to be used by California boatyards. All paints must meet California Air Resources Control Board and other local air pollution control agencies volatile organic carbon (VOC) requirements.

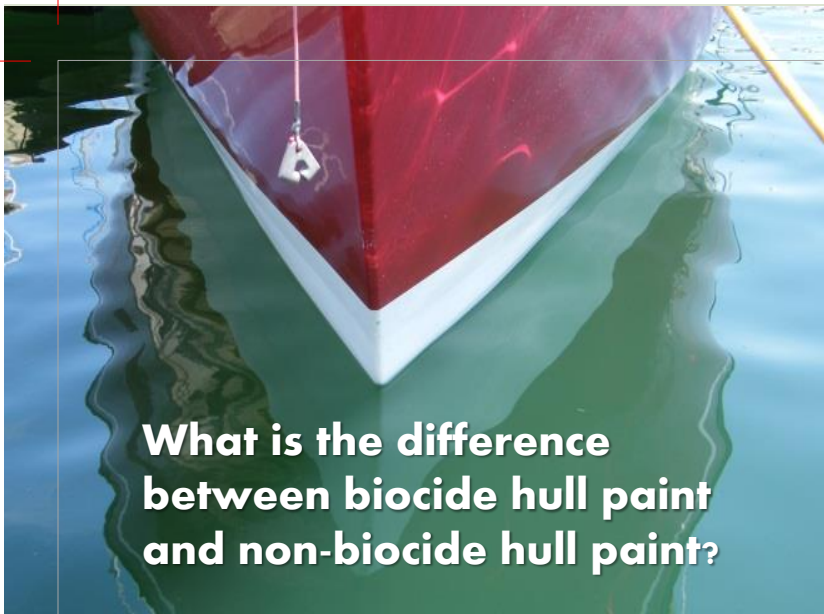
<sup>4</sup> Intersleek 1100SR is available for use on recreational boats. Paint manufacturer recommends ordering product 2-4 weeks prior to haul-out. Product application can be completed using either roller or spray methods.

<sup>5</sup> Paints labeled for commercial use only should not be used on recreational boats.

The mention of trade names or commercial products here does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

For a more complete list of available copper hull paints and more information on DPR's mitigation efforts, visit the website:

[http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/reevaluation/chemicals/antifoulant\\_paints.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/reevaluation/chemicals/antifoulant_paints.htm)



## What is the difference between biocide hull paint and non-biocide hull paint?

Biocide hull paints are toxic and act similarly to pesticides that prevent infestations of insects or weeds on your lawns.

Biocide paints contain copper or zinc or other active ingredients (e.g., Ecomea®) to prevent fouling on boat hulls. However, biocide paints are also known to be toxic to marine organisms.

Non-biocide paints do not contain active ingredients, making them more environmentally friendly. These paints are typically made of silicone, ceramic or epoxy materials.



Marinas in Southern California impacted by copper pollution include Marina del Rey, Newport Bay, and San Diego's Shelter Island Yacht Basin. For more information on the regulations and requirements in these areas, contact the local Regional Water Quality Control Board.



### Marina del Rey

LOS ANGELES REGION (4)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/)

### Newport Bay

SANTA ANA REGION (8)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl\\_metals.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_metals.shtml)

### Shelter Island Yacht Basin

SAN DIEGO REGION (9)  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/watershed/souwatershed.shtml#siybtmdl](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/watershed/souwatershed.shtml#siybtmdl)



This material was prepared by the Port of San Diego, in collaboration with the County of Los Angeles, Department of Beaches and Harbors, the California State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways, and the California Coastal Commission.

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## Are you looking to re-paint your boat hull?



Selecting a paint for your boat is far from a one-size-fits-all strategy. Key considerations include available hull paints, paint longevity, and cleaning needs, in relation to how you use your boat.

Copper is commonly used in hull paint to slow or stop the growth of marine life (fouling) on boat hulls by releasing copper (leaching). However, copper hull paints have been identified as the largest source of copper pollution in marinas.



**Be a part of the solution! Use this guide to select a hull paint that helps reduce copper pollution in marinas!**

