



How to Remove Paint with a Chemical Paint Stripper

Easy instructions for using a chemical paint stripper to remove paint or varnish quickly and easily.

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INTRODUCTION

Chemical strippers break down and help release old paint or varnish so you can remove it easily, without scorching the surface or creating flying paint chips and dust.

[TotalBoat TotalStrip paint remover](#) is easy to use and removes paints and varnishes effectively. TotalStrip has the advantage that it can be applied thicker (1/4” to 1/2”) than other strippers to remove more layers at a time. For lighter-duty applications, TotalStrip can work in as little as 10-15 minutes.

Most paint strippers are caustic and hazardous. TotalStrip has no harsh fumes and contains no methylene chloride, so you don’t have to do an acid wash neutralization after removing it – just use water to clean up, and let the surface dry.



TOOLS:

- [Tyvek Paint Suit \(no hood\)](#) (1)
- [Protective Eyewear](#) (1)
- [Nitrile Gloves](#) (1)
- [Chip Brushes](#) (1)
- [Putty Knife](#) (1)
- [Stripping Pads](#) (1)
- [3M General Purpose Green Scotch-Brite Pad](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [TotalBoat TotalStrip Paint & Varnish Remover](#) (1)
- [TotalBoat Cleaning & Wiping Rags](#) (1)

Step 1 — Apply chemical paint stripper



⚠ For best results, apply [TotalBoat TotalStrip](#) in temperatures between 60-80°F.

- Use a [brush](#), [putty knife](#), or roller to apply TotalBoat TotalStrip at a thickness of 1/4" to 1/2".
- If you're removing a few layers, leave the stripper on the surface for about 15 minutes. Allow it to work through the layers of paint. More layers, such as many layers of bottom paint, will take more time, or more applications of stripper.
- ① **Application Tip:** To help the stripper work more effectively, apply a layer of wax paper or plastic wrap over the stripper (see third image). Covering the stripper keeps it wet so it can keep working longer – even overnight.

Step 2 — Scrape off the paint



- Use a putty knife or stiff brush to lift off the dissolved coating.

Step 3 — Remove remaining residue



- Continue removing residue using a [stripping pad](#) or [Scotch-Brite™ pad](#) and water.
- Finally, remove remaining residue by wiping with a [lint-free rag](#) dampened with water.

Step 4 — Personal Safety



⚠ When working with chemical paint strippers, it's important to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

- Before you begin, we recommend the following:
 - Review the information in the SDS (safety data sheets) for each product, including Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection.
 - Gather the proper PPE, as listed by the product manufacturers, for example, suitable gloves and proper protection for skin, lungs, eyes, and clothing.

Now that you're done stripping, make sure the surface is completely dry before priming, painting, or varnishing.