



How to Apply Bottom Paint on Your Boat

This guide shows you how to apply antifouling bottom paint to your hull bottom to help prevent barnacles and weeds from clinging to the bottom of your boat.

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INTRODUCTION

[Antifouling bottom paint](#) helps prevent hard and soft marine growth from attaching to the bottom of your hull, slowing you down, affecting your ability to maneuver safely, and costing you more in bottom cleaning, blister repair, and fuel bills. When choosing a bottom paint, read the labels carefully to ensure you get the right amount of protection for your area and water conditions.

[TotalBoat Spartan](#) is an affordable, multi-season bottom paint with a high-copper load and controlled biocide release that offers great results in all conditions, including waters where severe fouling is common.

Spartan is recommended for use on **properly prepared and primed** fiberglass, wood, steel, iron, and previously painted surfaces in good condition. It's easy to apply by brush, roller, airless spray, or conventional spray methods. Boats painted with Spartan can be hauled and relaunched without repainting; Spartan can also be painted up to 12 months before launching.



TOOLS:

- [Tyvek Paint Suit w/Hood](#) (1)
- [3M Half Mask Respirator for Paint](#) (1)
- [Protective Eyewear](#) (1)
- [Nitrile Gloves](#) (1)
- [Paint Roller Frame](#) (1)
- [3/16 Inch Solvent-Resistant Smooth Mohair Roller Cover](#) (1)
- [Deepwell Paint Roller Tray](#) (1)
- [Deepwell Solvent-Resistant Disposable Paint Tray Liner](#) (1)
- [Wooden Stir Sticks](#) (1)
- [Chip Brushes](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [TotalBoat Spartan Ablative Bottom Paint](#) (1)
- [TotalBoat Special Brushing Thinner 100](#) (1)
- [TotalBoat Dewaxer and Surface Prep](#) (1)
- [TotalBoat TotalProtect epoxy barrier coat primer](#) (1)

Step 1 — Surface preparation & priming



① Proper surface prep is key to getting excellent results. All substrates (surfaces) must be thoroughly clean, dry, and prepared properly before applying bottom paint.

- **Previously Painted Surfaces in Good Condition:** Sand thoroughly with [80-grit sandpaper](#). When sanding old antifouling paint, always wear proper PPE to avoid inhaling sanding dust. Remove residue by solvent cleaning with a lint-free rag dampened with [TotalBoat Special Brushing Thinner 100](#).
- **Previously Painted Surfaces in Poor Condition:** Sand or use a paint stripper such as [TotalBoat TotalStrip](#), as directed on the label, to remove the previous coating down to the bare surface. Continue by doing the appropriate bare surface system shown below.

- **Bare Fiberglass:** Wipe the surface clean with a clean, lint-free rag dampened with [TotalBoat Dewaxer & Surface Prep](#). Change rags as often as needed to remove all contaminants. Sand thoroughly with 80-grit and wash with fresh water to remove sanding residue.
Apply Barrier Coat: To prevent blistering, apply 2-3 coats of [TotalBoat TotalProtect](#) epoxy barrier coat primer, as directed.
- **Bare Wood:** The surface must be dry and clean. Use [seam compound](#) to make sure all seams are filled and smooth. Sand the surface with 80-grit sandpaper, and wipe the surface clean with a lint-free rag dampened with TotalBoat [Special Brushing Thinner 100](#).
- **Bare Steel/Iron:** Remove any loose debris or rust. Sandblast the surface until the entire surface is shiny, bare metal with a 2-3 mil profile. Immediately clean the surface with a vacuum/fresh air. Prime with [TotalBoat TotalProtect](#), as directed. Wipe the cured surface with [TotalBoat Dewaxer & Surface Prep](#).

Step 2 — Shake or stir paint to mix thoroughly



- It's normal for the heavy copper content in Spartan to settle on the bottom of the can. Either use a clean [wooden stir stick](#) to stir the paint thoroughly, or ask your local marine paint shop to put it on their shaker.
- Before using [Spartan](#), check the bottom and sides of the can to be sure all of the pigment has been mixed in thoroughly.

Step 3 — Apply bottom paint



- ① The recommended temperature & humidity range for applying Spartan is 50-90°F (0-90% humidity).
- ① **Application Methods:** Use a [high-quality natural bristle brush, 3/16" nap](#) or foam solvent-safe roller, airless spray, or conventional spray equipment to apply TotalBoat Spartan.
- ① **Thinning:** Spartan doesn't require thinning, but you can add 5-10% (6-12 oz. per gallon) thinner. Brush/Roll Application: Thin with TotalBoat Special Brushing [Thinner 100](#). Spray Application: Thin with xylene.
- **Recommended Number of Coats:** Apply 1-2 coats to properly prepared surfaces. Follow all label directions carefully.
- ① **Minimum Dry Times to Recoat:** Dry Time to Recoat: 1.5 hrs. @ 90°F, 3 hrs. @ 70°F, 6 hrs. @ 50°F.
- ① **TIP:** For roller application, it's very important to use a 3/16" nap or foam roller cover, for proper curing.
- ① **TIP:** We recommend that you apply an extra 1-2 coats over bare substrates, around the waterline area, and any other areas with increased wear, such as leading edges of keels, skegs, and rudders.

Step 4 — Minimum Dry Times to Launch



- ① Before launching, allow to dry for the specified time, based on temperature.
- ① **Dry Times to Launch:** 6 hrs. @ 90°F, 10 hrs. @ 70°F, 16 hrs. @ 50°F.
- ① There is no maximum amount of time that the boat can be launched after painting.

Step 5 — Personal Safety



⚠ The chemicals in barrier coat primers, bottom paints, and solvents are very hazardous to your health. It's imperative to wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), which will vary based on the job at hand and the products used.

- Before you begin any project, we recommend the following:
 - Carefully read the safety information on all product labels.

- Review the information in the SDS (safety data sheets) for each product, including Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection.
- Gather the proper PPE items, as stated by the manufacturers. Items can include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Proper respirators for product application and for sanding cured material.
 - Suitable gloves to protect your hands.
 - Proper eye, face, skin, and clothing protection.

The self-cleaning nature of TotalBoat Spartan antifouling paint is most effective if you use your boat periodically. Boat bottoms coated with Spartan should not be scrubbed or cleaned for the first six months in the water, and at intervals of not less than three months thereafter.